

If you were to ask people what they think about Jesus you would get a host of different answers; some answers founded on fact and others on speculation. For the next few minutes I want us to focus our thought on some facts that we know about Jesus.

When some think about Jesus they think of him as a small baby in a manger. While there are a lot of unfounded thoughts centered on the birth of Jesus, it is a Biblical fact that Jesus was born and that he was a baby. (Luke 2:4-7) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) (5) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. (6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Jesus was once a baby.

Others, when they think about Jesus see him as a kind Savior that loved to be around children, for indeed the Bible speaks of Jesus being with the little children. (Matt. 18:2) And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, (3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

But perhaps the most common thought on Jesus is on the death and resurrection. Like most, there are some fact and fiction regarding this event. The Biblical fact is that Jesus lived some 30 plus years on this earth as a man and was falsely accused, arrested and put to death. After his death his body was removed from the cross where it was laid in a new tomb and the tomb was sealed with Roman guards stationed outside to guard against any intrusions. Yet in spite of all the precautions, on the Sunday morning to follow Jesus came forth from that tomb as a resurrected Savior. (Mat 28:1) In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. ... (5) And the angel answered and

said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. (6) He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

So many of the Biblical facts on the events in Jesus life were the fulfillment of the prophetic predictions put forth hundreds of years before Jesus' birth. For instance, the prophet Isaiah told of Jesus being born of a virgin (Isa 7:14) and then in chapter 53 he spoke of the mistreatment that Jesus would encounter. So we conclude that Godly promises are as factual as the event itself. With that thought in mind, there are some other predictable Biblical promises that I want us to consider as Godly facts, and these really hinge on the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead – the resurrection.

There are some who refuse to accept the facts regardless of the evidence. We have an example of this in Acts 4:13-18. In Acts 4 we have Peter and John being arrested and stood before the Sanhedrin court for preaching the gospel and to give credibility to the message they preached they heal a lame man who had been crippled for over 40 years. (click1) Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. 14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. (click2) 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it. (click3) 17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. 18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. They could not deny that a man had been made well for he had stood before them. But they did not want to accept what had taken place. The evidence was overwhelming that Peter and John were men of God but rather than accepting that fact, they tried to hush them up and commanded them not speak or teach in the name of Jesus. These men

didn't like what they heard so they chose not to embrace it, regardless of the undeniable evidence. There are people like that today.

One factual promise is that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for the righteous. In John 13 Jesus dropped a bombshell on his disciples. He told them that one of them would betray him and then he told them that he was going away to a place that they could not go right now, but later. These two things troubled his disciples so Jesus says in John 14, (John 14:1) *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.* Jesus has gone to prepare a place for his disciples and one day he will return for them. This is a factual promise; but do we accept that fact? Do we believe that one day Jesus will return? By the way people live it seems many do not accept this promise as factual.

Another factual promises that some don't want to acknowledge is that one day Jesus will return and we will be resurrected to stand before Him in judgment. The evidence that have for such a resurrection is the resurrection of Jesus. Notice the argument Paul makes in 1 Cor 15. *1 Cor. 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.* Then Paul adds in v 15 ff that if Christ was not risen from the dead then he was a false witness because that was what he preached. And farther, if Christ had not been risen, then our faith is in vain and we are still in our sins and when we die we perish. *20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. ... 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.* Just as Jesus was first resurrected, there is more to come. That's the idea behind the term "firstfruits." Firstfruits is an agriculture term used when the fruits of the crop were celebrated

because the “firstfruits” first was an indication that more fruit was to come. So Jesus was the first to be resurrected never to die again. Paul described him as the “firstfruits”

It's a fact that one day there will be a resurrection from the dead. On one occasion, Paul was speaking to Governor Felix **Acts 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.** Notice that Paul preached **RIGHTEOUSNESS** – right living; **TEMPERANCE** – self-control. It carries the idea of restraint against the fleshly appetite and immorality. Then he added teaching on “**JUDGMENT TO COME.**” Somewhere in this conversation, Paul presented some facts that Felix did not like or wanted to receive. The verse says that Felix trembled and sent Paul away until another time.

Another time Paul was preaching in the city of Athens to the scholars of their day about what they considered the unknown God. **Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.** Paul teaches that man should repent, which means to change and the reason man needs to repent is because one day there is going to be a resurrection and a judgment. Notice, like with Felix, when they heard about the resurrection, many mocked – they didn't want to accept the fact.

The fact is that one day Jesus is going to return and when he does, he will not be that little babe in the manger or that kind man that embraced little children. When he comes again he is not coming as a Savior of the world. When he comes again he will come as a righteous judge. A righteous judge will be fair. He will punish the unjust and reward the faithful. We see both cases addressed in 2 Thes 1. Verses 7-9 address the wicked and vs 10 address the faithful. **2 Thes. 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us,**

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (10) When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

The fact is that those who do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel will be punished with everlasting destruction.

Do you know there are some that don't want to hear this fact. In fact there will be some protestors; those that will argue with the Lord. Someone described these people as "Hell bound believers." (Matt. 7:22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. But regardless of their arguments, it's a fact that the Lord's judgment will prevail. (Heb 10:30) For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

In view of a resurrection and judgment, instead of making preparation, sometimes we go to sleep spiritually. There is a danger of drifting into the comfortable sleep of sin. There was a time when Peter, James, and John were with Jesus on a high mountain. While there they fell asleep and missed seeing Jesus being transfigured from a fleshly state to a glorious state. When they awoke they saw Jesus in a radiate form talking with two legends from the past, Moses and Elijah. Peter suggested three tabernacles be erected – one for each of the three. Notice God's reply. (Matt. 17:5) While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. We are not going to be judged by Moses and the prophets but instead by the word of Jesus.

Let us learn the importance of the Lord's message; His will for us. (John 12:48) He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. One day called the last day

when we stand before that great white throne the books are going to be opened and our lives are going to be measured against the words of Jesus. We are not going to be judged by the Law of Moses or one of the prophets.

There was another time when Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him into the garden of Gethsemane and instructed them to “watch with me.” (Mat 26:40) **And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? (Mat 26:41) Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. (Mat 26:42) He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. (Mat 26:43) And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.** What they needed was a spiritual rooster.

What so many need today is a rooster – a spiritual rooster. We all know that rooster crow and are used as a means to wake-up. In one of his lowest and weakest moments, Peter’s courage left him and he denied Jesus not once; not twice; but three times and after that third denial, the rooster crowed. It was at that moment that Peter “Woke-up.”

The rooster did what he could to wake Peter up from his spiritual slumber. He did not bark like a dog nor did he meow like a cat. All he could do was crow and that’s all the Lord needed him to do. The rooster was not ashamed to crow nor was he worried about standing alone. He was faithful in what he did. He gave a wake-up call.