"Resurrection" (God Sightings: When GOD Shows Up – Pt. 5)
(2 Kings 13:20-21, John 11:38-44, Eph. 2:1-5)

- **Why Do You Show Up?**
  - Let me ask you a simple question: why do you come to church? Why do you *show up*? Is it to hear a band make some music? Is it to listen to somebody talk on a stage? Is it to see some people who make you feel good? The pastor, the friend, the lights, the coffee? No, there's a much bigger reason. I mean, thank God for this place and these people—but there's really only one thing that matters above it all: we come because *He shows up*. We want to encounter the truth, the grace, the presence, the power of the *Living God.* The *power of Jesus* is still changing things that look *dead and gone*. And we want to exalt Him, grow in Him, walk with Him in this world. Jesus came from Heaven to Earth, He died and rose again, so that He could bring us *from death to life*. This is why our mission after 25 years is still *Connecting people with Jesus and the New Life He offers*. Testimonies like Tanya's are a perfect example! And there are stories all over this room. Even though each story is different, they all come down to the same thing: we were dead, Jesus showed up, and now *we're alive*. Do you know what we call this God Sighting that we're talking about today, to finish the series? *Resurrection.* Let's pray.
- **God of Resurrection**
  - All month, we've heard testimonies, and we've talked about different ways "God shows up" even though we've only scratched the surface. Amazing stuff! But when you think about it…all these God sightings are just signs that point to the *ultimate miracle*: that is the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, who's coming back to make *all things new.* Provision, deliverance, healing—they're all instances where *the resurrection power of God*, the *New Creation* is breaking through. C.S. Lewis said, "The fact that God entered human nature, died, and rose again, is *the central miracle of Christianity*. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this." *Resurrection* is the mother of all miracles, that all others point to.

- Our God is a *God of resurrection.* It started in the beginning. We were made for a paradise Garden, to walk with God in eternal life. When we rebelled, what was the consequence? *Death*. Sin separated us form the Source of Life, so we die—spiritually, and physically. If death is our big problem—like Paul said, *"The last enemy to be destroyed is death,"* (1 Cor. 15:26)—then God's solution is *resurrection*. If scarcity, hunger, sickness, captivity are all consequences of sin—then God's miracles of provision, healing, deliverance are all part of His plan to save the world, to reverse the Fall, to *resurrect His Creation* to new life.

- We see it all over the Bible: you have Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. ***The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."*** **(Ezek. 37:1-3)** Do you know what happens? The Lord tells Ezekiel to speak His Word to the bones, prophesy that they would reassemble into bodies and the breath of life would make them alive again—and it happens! From scattered bones, to a risen army. God says, ***"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord."*** **(Ezek. 37:12-14)** The nation of Israel was in Exile, because of their own rebellion—they had lost everything, as a people, their hopes and dreams were *dead and gone*—as gone as a valley of bones bleached in the sun. But God shows up and promises them, *I will to restore you. Resurrection power.*
- And there's this short but wild story of Elisha, the prophet who Naaman sought for healing in last week's story. He dies, his bones were laid to rest: ***"Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders;***

***so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet."* (2 Kings 13:21)** And that's the end of the story! We get 2 verses. *I have so many questions!* But there you have it: more *Resurrection power.*

- Of course, it's all over Jesus' story—the N.T. is all about it! You've heard the name *Lazarus?* Ezekiel saw it in a vision, Jesus brought it to reality: ***Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."* (John 11:43-44)** This is the same story where Jesus said: ***"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* (11:25-26)** These people were raised again to a natural life. When Jesus walked out of His tomb, He was raised to *a whole new life—eternal life, resurrection life*—and because He lives, *we too will live*. *Resurrection power!*

- **<u>Resurrection Power</u>**
  - But here's what's amazing: resurrection isn't just an event. It's not just something we wait for ourselves. It's also the power of God working in us the moment we are saved! Just like humanity's fall brought spiritual as well as physical death, the saving power of God works in us spiritually, and literally: ***"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins…But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."* (Eph. 2:1-5) *"But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."* (Rom. 8:10-11)**
  - If you have put your faith in Christ, then Christ lives in you, God's Spirit lives in you. If His Spirit lives in you *then His resurrection power is in you.* And if His resurrection power is in you then He is able to work in you and through you to

reverse the *effects of the Fall:* He is able to bring His deliverance, His provision, His healing, His salvation to you and through you. Sometimes, it is in deep, hidden ways, quiet, profound ways *nobody sees*—but they see the impact, because you start to become a new person. Sometimes, it's in ways that nobody can possibly miss!

- The point is, if you are a follower of Christ, Resurrection is not just your hope and your future—Resurrection is *your way of life*. This is what we mean when we talk about *Connecting people with Jesus and the New Life He offers.*

- **Do We Really Want Him to Show Up?**
  - This brings us to the final point of this series, the ultimate question: if this is who God is, and what God does—if this is what happens when God shows up—do you want Him to? *Do you really want Him to show up?* You would think the answer would be easy! But we all know human nature more complicated. Sometimes when Jesus would perform an incredible sign, people weren't always excited, jumping to follow Him—sometimes, they were afraid, sometimes they wanted Him to go away—sometimes, they wanted Him dead. There was a man in Luke 8, "the Gerasene Demoniac" possessed by so many demons his name was "Legion"—he lived in the graveyard, he was so far gone everyone gave up, they sent him away, they had to, to protect themselves. Jesus showed up, and He was the only Power these critters had to submit to. Suddenly, this man whose life was forfeit, who was *dead and gone*, was *sitting up, in his right* mind. Do you know what the people of that town did when they saw what Jesus had done? ***"…they were afraid…all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear."* (Luke 8:35-37)** Sometimes we get stuck, sometimes we're afraid to let Jesus show up, because honestly, we're afraid *of that much disruption—we've become so comfortable with life in the valley of dry bones.* Rod Dreher wrote: **"We may tell ourselves that we would like to witness a miracle, and if only we saw evidence of the supernatural, we would change our lives and follow the Lord. The truth is that many of us would be like the Gerasenes. To see a miracle could upset the subtle**

framework of our lives so much and require us to change in ways we would prefer not to." (*Living in Wonder*)

- This is why, sometimes, God has to take us on a journey before we see the breakthrough. Sometimes, He's after a lot more than just fixing a temporary problem. Sometimes, He's after a change in our hearts, and we've got to come to the end of ourselves to find Him waiting there with redemption. Where is the valley of dry bones in you? Where is that struggle, that problem, that situation, that you've given up on ever being free from? Where have you come to the realization that *nothing more can be done by human strength?* That's where He wants to show up with New Life. You can be sure He will show up—in His time, in His way—*and bring life to that place*. Because His resurrection power is in us, He can use every situation for His glory. Like Tanya, like every believer who's ever put their life in His hands, He says to you: *come out of that grave.* From darkness to light. Death to life. *Resurrection Power.* This is how God shows up. Are you ready? If you need Him to show up today, seek Him, call on His Name.