

THE BIG IDEA: Jesus doesn't just raise us TO life; He gives us NEW life.

The Take-Off

Some things you just can't cover up, no matter how hard you try.

After an intense workout, all the Axe body spray in the world will not keep the stench from eventually coming out.

In fact, sometimes the attempt to cover up something makes everything worse.

In the 70's, there were the Watergate and Ford Pinto fire cover ups.

* it would have cost Ford \$11/car to fix a potential explosion risk, but they determined it would save \$70 million to ignore it and settle out of court with burn victims!

* it ended up costing them more in legal fees, settlements and lost public trust once it was revealed

In the 80's, Russia waited a full 3 weeks to come clean about the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

In the 90's and into the new millennium, there was the cover up of perversion among Roman Catholic priests.

And maybe this is the worst cover up of all time!

[IMAGE Tattoo Cover up]

Sometimes I think we treat Easter like a cover up, right?

We know the story, we make sure we get to church at least for that Sunday every year, and we hope maybe that will do the trick. We think that somehow our good can outweigh - or cover up - our bad.

But the resurrection of Jesus blows the cover off of the cover up!

Even back in the day when Jesus was resurrected, the implications of a dead man being raised to life were so far-reaching and so staggering that the leaders tried to cover IT up!

But they couldn't, anymore than Axe covers the stink of a 7th grade boy in class right after PE.

Jesus is alive. He was dead, and He was raised, and we know that if we're following Him and trusting in His work on the cross and in the tomb, then we've been raised with Him.

Ephesians 3:1 tells us that!

But what I want us to see in the last half of Luke 6 is that Easter isn't just about Jesus raising us TO life; it's about Jesus giving us NEW life.

There's something about new that is powerful. Just think about smells: the new car smell is so powerful you can buy cans of air fresheners with the scent; new baby smells are so powerful that one Canadian study found the brain's reaction to it for women was as strong as a drug hit to an addict

The power of the resurrection isn't that Jesus can raise us to life, but that he can actually give us NEW life!

It's not about dusting off the old one and trying to make a go at being a better person.

Easter holds the promise that Jesus can make all things new!!

And here - in Luke 6 - Jesus gives us marks of that new life - a checklist of sorts - if I've raised you TO life and given you NEW life, then this is what it will look like, what that NEW life will be marked by...

1. Love (vv. 27-36)

- a. Not love the "feeling," but love the "choice."
- b. So different than the love the world knows (v. 32 shows the world's love - given to those who love you!)
- c. If we have to get counseling about how to love our friends, how are we to love our ENEMIES??!!
- d. [ILL]Late one summer evening in Broken Bow, Nebraska, a weary truck driver pulled his rig into an all-night truck stop. The waitress had just served him when three tough looking, leather jacketed motorcyclists - of the Hell's Angels type - decided to give him a hard time. Not only did they verbally abuse him, one grabbed the hamburger off his plate, another took a handful of his french fries, and the third picked up his coffee and began to drink it. How would you respond? Well, this trucker did not respond as one might expect. Instead, he calmly rose, picked up his check, walked to the front of the room, put the check and his money on the cash register, and went out the door. The waitress followed him to put the money in the till and stood watching out the door as the big truck drove away into the night. When she returned, one of the bikers said to her, "Well, he's not much of a man, is he?" She replied, "I don't know about that, but he sure ain't much of a truck driver. He just ran over three motorcycles on his way out of the parking lot."
- e. But Jesus reveals 3 ways we'll love our enemies: we'll do good to them, we'll bless them, and we'll pray for them. All actions of the will, not feelings of the heart!

2. Forgiveness (v. 37)

- a. Verse 37 is a tough one, because it requires a kingdom mindset!
- b. We are followers of a King, and HE sits on a throne that we are not to occupy
- c. If there was ever a verse that non-Christians would put on posters, this is it. Well, the first 2 words.
- d. “Judge not”
- e. Quickly, let me point out that we are allowed to judge (see John 7:24 and 1 Cor. 2:15 for starters), but we’re not allowed to sit on the throne of judgement. That’s a place reserved for God only.
- f. Our job is to use discernment as we follow Jesus together.
- g. Jesus is talking here about the critical nature of so many - fault-finding, critical spirits - that sort of thing
- h. Many people in church think they have the spiritual gift of discouragement and use it liberally
- i. Why do we need to understand how to judge and not judge?
- j. **Because you can’t forgive what you’re condemning**, and the new life is marked by forgiveness!
- k. Some of you wonder why you can’t seem to get out of the tomb of bitterness and grudges, and it’s all due to unforgiveness.
- l. Forgiveness is your way out of the tomb! Take it!!

3. Generosity (v. 38)

- a. Guess what happens when we forgive? We’re free to GIVE!
- b. Followers of Jesus - people who have been raised to life and given NEW life - are marked by generosity
- c. And what does God do when we give? He out-gives us! “Good measure, pressed down, shame, running over”
- d. In other words, He makes sure He’s getting as much blessing to us as possible!! God doesn’t skimp!
- e. His children won’t, either.

4. Awareness (vv. 39-42)

- a. If I say the word “clueless” what (or who) comes to mind? An 80s movie? A socially awkward penguin?
- b. We all know people who seem to simply lack awareness - you drop hints and they don’t get them
- c. They are “blind” and if you follow them, they are “the blind leading the blind”
- d. But the new life is a life of awareness, and here are some things we’ll be aware of:
 - our sin
 - our blind spots
 - our influencers
 - our need to lead ourselves before others
 - the ease with which we become like who we follow (blogs, podcasts, media, etc)
 - we WILL mimic the voices that we listen to

5. Fruitfulness

- a. When we’re aware of the influence other voices can have on us, we’ll begin to see how that affects the fruit that our lives are producing
- b. Followers of Jesus will produce GOOD fruit because we’re allowing Jesus to change the source - the heart
- c. Proverbs 4:23 - above ALL ELSE, guard your heart! We don’t want oranges duct taped to apple trees!
- d. Why? Because it is what determines the fruit of our lives. Bad heart, bad fruit. Good heart, good fruit.

6. Stability

- a. Finally, Jesus wraps up the best sermon ever with a simple truth: do what you know.
- b. Don’t say “Lord” if you’re not willing to say “yes.”
- c. How many times do we promise God obedience if He’ll bless our disobedience?
- d. You and I both know people whose lives are so up and down - they aren’t stable - and it’s all about the lack of simple obedience to what they already know - obedience leads to stability on the foundational level
- e. Don’t ask to learn more if you aren’t willing to obey more.

The Landing

Jesus’ sermon isn’t about learning or doing, but about being

We WILL do these things because we will BE these things - and Easter is the time we embrace starting over, fresh, new

This is the perfect time to begin again and let Jesus make ALL THINGS NEW

Jesus doesn’t just raise us to life, He gives us new life.

[VIDEO - “Begin Again”]