

RESURRECTION

APRIL 9th | READ JOHN 20:1-29

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, where He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While He was dying, his executioners gambled for His garments, the only property He had on earth. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life. - "One Solitary Life," Dr. James Allan Francis

In D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe's book *What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?* (Thomas Nelson, Nashville, TN, 1994) the authors explore the implications of a world without Jesus. What follows in this devotional is a mere fraction of what could be written. However, without his resurrection from the dead, we would not have the testimony of the life of Jesus and certainly our world would not look like it does today.

If Jesus was never born, education would be radically different and widely unavailable to the masses. America's public school system is part of the legacy of Anglican evangelical Robert Raikes (1725-1811) who was the key promoter of the Sunday School movement which sought to bring education to the poor. Nearly every one of the first 100 colleges and universities in America had Christian roots. There would be no Oxford in England, no Harvard, Yale, or Princeton in America just to name a few.

The world of the arts and literature would be diminished and robbed of many of its great inspirations had Jesus never been born. The *Pieta* by Michelangelo, and the *Last Supper* by DaVinci would not exist. There would be no grand architectural wonders like the cathedrals in Europe. There would be no majestic poems like the *Divine Comedy* by Dante, and *Paradise Lost* by Milton.

In the field of science, it was the Christian worldview that gave rise to scientific exploration and development. You see, it was the Christian worldview with its insistence on the rational order of the universe that gave rise to the scientific method.

It is this and much, much, more that enable us to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus. A more personal approach is to ask, "What difference has the resurrection of Jesus made in my life?" Have you been eternally changed by Jesus? Have you considered the implications of the resurrection for yourself? May the Lord bless you richly as you consider and celebrate his resurrection from the dead. It has changed everything.

In Christ,
John