

"From Resurrection to Fire"

"Unveiling the Mysteries from The Open Tomb to the Upper Room"

042725ekk

Introduction to Sermon Series

We are about to take a journey of power – presence – and promise ... From Resurrection Glory to Pentecostal Fire ... We are about to step into a divine timeline ... A sacred countdown between two thundering moments of heaven impacting earth.

It begins in the garden tomb – where death was destroyed – and it culminates in the upper room – where power was imparted ... Between these two holy thresholds lies a spiritual pilgrimage ... For forty days – the resurrected Christ walked with His disciples – not just to prove He was alive – but to awaken them to a deep mystical reality.

This series, From the Open Tomb to the Upper Room – will uncover the hidden mysteries – divine encounters – and spiritual transformations that occurred between the Resurrection and Pentecost ... We are not just remembering what happened – nor examining specific events – but we will be stepping into divine revelation ... This is a journey from seeing Jesus in the natural to knowing Him in the Spirit. ... A journey from fear behind locked doors to boldness in the streets ... A journey from individual discipleship to collective glory ... A journey from redemption to empowerment ... Each week, we will enter into a sacred moment along this path – allowing the Spirit to reveal what Jesus is still doing – between the tomb and the upper room – not only in the early church – but in us – His present-day body.

TRANS

So, this week – we begin in the tomb's garden ... You know the story ... In the dawn of resurrection morning – Mary Magdalene stands weeping outside the tomb ... She turns, and there stands Jesus – but she doesn't recognize Him ... Instead, she supposes Him to be the

gardener ... This piqued my curiosity ... Why did she think He was a gardener? ... Was it the setting? ... They were in the garden tomb ... But is there more? ... Perhaps His posture was that of one tending the earth, stooping low, hands in the soil of redemption ... Or perhaps it was even deeper than that ... Maybe her spirit was discerning something ancient and familiar ... Sensing the One who walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day had returned ... The Gardener – Himself had returned ... This moment is not accidental – it is prophetic ... It tells us that Jesus has come not just to rise – but to restore ... To restore the garden of our soul – to reverse the curse of the ground – and to replant humanity into union with God ... So, let us step into this holy mystery: The second Adam appears in a garden ... Not by coincidence – but by divine design.

The First Gardener: Adam

God placed Adam in a garden of beauty and abundance – giving him authority to care for the earth ... Despite being in a perfect environment – Adam's disobedience led to the curse upon the ground ... This curse brought toil – suffering, and separation from God – creating spiritual barrenness ... The fall resulted in the spiritual death of humanity ... Adam's sin led to the curse of sin and death passing onto all men ... This "garden" became a reflection of the inner condition of humanity – corrupted and barren.

The Second Gardener: Jesus

Where the first Adam brought death and separation – the Second Adam brings life, restoration, and union ... Just like the first Adam – Jesus steps into a garden – but not Eden ... He enters Gethsemane – a garden not of delight, but of deep surrender ... In Gethsemane, Jesus faces the dark night of the soul ... It is here He wrestles – not with Satan – but with His own humanity ... It is here He fights the hidden battles of surrender, sorrow, and obedience ... Gethsemane is the place where self-dies, and the will of the Father prevails ... And because He conquered in the Garden of Gethsemane, He could walk boldly to the Garden of the Tomb ... Where death would be defeated, and a new creation would be born."

Jesus in the Garden Tomb

John 20:15 New Living Translation

“Dear woman, why are you crying?” ... Jesus asked her. ... “Who are you looking for?” ... She thought He was the gardener. ... “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him.”

Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener – but listen carefully – as this was no accident ... It was a divine encounter, wrapped in the ordinary ... How often do we walk through life and miss divine moments, just like Mary? ... How many times have we encountered an angel and thought it was just a kind stranger? ... Like Mary, we often get swept up in the business of life, captured by our own earthly agendas and to-do lists ... But God calls us to live awake – to stay spiritually conscious of His presence and His involvement in every moment ... Let me drop a little nugget: We need to slow down – awaken our spirit – and realize our life is far more than just tasks and schedules ... We are living in a divine flow – if only we have eyes to see!

Now – let's go deeper ... Jesus reveals Himself as the Gardener of our soul ... He comes to tend the soil of our hearts – to plant the seeds of His own divine life within us – and to cause us to flourish – not by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit!

He Desires to Cultivate the Soil of our Heart

Luke 8:15 New Living Translation

And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, - good-hearted people - who hear God's word, - cling to it, - and patiently produce a huge harvest.

PASSION

The seed that fell into good, fertile soil - - represents those lovers of truth - - who hear it deep within their hearts ... They respond by clinging to the word, - keeping it dear - as they endure all things in faith ... This is the seed that will one day bear much fruit in their lives.”

Jesus, the Gardener of our soul – desires to remove the stones of stubbornness from our hardened hearts ... He longs to break up the dry, resistant soil of unbelief ... He comes to pull out the tares – those painful roots left by life's traumas and wounds ... And with tender, skillful

hands – He sows the seeds of His Word deep within us ... Planting them into the freshly broken – freshly yielded soil of our soul ... And for what purpose? ... That we might bear abundant spiritual fruit – fruit that glorifies our Father and reveals His life to the world!

He Desires to Enjoy the Garden of our Heart

Song of Songs 4:12-15 Passion

My sister and my bride, - - you are like a garden for me - - that is locked to other men. You are like a spring or a fountain that other people may not drink water from. ... 13 Your body is like a special garden. It is full of pomegranate trees with their sweet fruit. There are wonderful fruits to enjoy. There are also henna and nard. ... 14 There are nard, saffron, calamus, cinnamon and many different spices. There are myrrh, aloes and all the best spices. ... 15 You are like a spring of water in a garden. You are like a well that has fresh water. The water runs down from Lebanon's mountains.

The risen Christ tends the garden of our soul so that He may enjoy it ... Our hearts are no longer barren fields but sacred gardens ... The Holy Spirit within us is like a sealed fountain; Jesus lovingly uncaps it so living waters can flow freely ... He cultivates the hidden fruits of intimacy and virtue, even when we are unaware ... He draws forth the fragrant incense of worship and surrender ... He reconnects us to the heavenly streams of life, not by striving, but by awakening what He already planted within us ... In His patient love, Jesus transforms us into a flourishing garden where He Himself delights to walk.

The Great Exchange: From Curse to Blessing

Restoration of the Garden

Matthew 19:28 AMP

Jesus said to them, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, in the renewal [that is, the Messianic restoration and regeneration of all things] when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, - - you [who have followed Me, becoming My disciples] will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Just as Jesus promised a new birth and restoration of all creation ... He begins this restoration within us ... He is tending the garden of our soul by His Spirit ... He has restored what was broken and is preparing us to reign with Him in the fullness of His coming kingdom.

Walking in New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Good News Translation

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. ... 18 All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also.

When you stepped into Christ, you didn't just get cleaned up ... You were uprooted from death and transplanted into LIFE ... The old man was buried, the curse was shattered, and the risen King Himself — the Gardener of Glory — breathed into your soil and commanded a new creation to arise! ... You are no longer a wasteland of regret — you are Eden reborn, a living garden where the Spirit walks, where rivers of living water break forth, and where the fragrance of Christ fills the earth! ... You are the proof that resurrection has already begun!

Conclusion: The Invitation to Flourish

Yield to the Gardener

John 15:5 The Message

“I am the Vine; you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing.

Yielding to the Gardener means abiding ... Staying rooted and grounded in His life ... Remaining surrendered to His pruning ... Trusting in His hand of grace – even when the pruning cuts deep ... But remember – without yielding – we wither ... But when we yield, His life flows through us, shaping and strengthening us to flourish in His design and image

Bearing the Fruit for His Glory

John 15:8 New Living Translation

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father.

The purpose of His tender work – as the Gardener of our soul – is not just survival, but supernatural fruitfulness ... When our lives blossom with love, power, and righteousness – the Father receives visible glory on earth – and the world sees the true image of Jesus growing within us.

Closing Prayer:

Lord – You are the Gardener of our souls ... Today we yield the soil of our hearts to You ... Come and walk among the gardens You have restored and planted within each of us ... Uproot every weed of fear, doubt, and pride ... Tend to every hidden place where life has been choked ... Breathe upon the seeds that have been planted by Your Spirit – and cause them to spring forth with fresh power and beauty ... Lord – may Your hand move upon our soul ... Prune us ... Shape us ... Water us with Your Word ... Cause us to become fruitful that the Father may be glorified through us ... Let the fragrance of Your presence flow from our lives – so that when the world looks at us – they see, they hear, they smell the sweet evidence – that You live inside the garden of our soul ... We boldly declare: We will abide in You ... We will yield to You ... We will bear fruit for You ... All for the glory of the Father ... In the mighty name of Jesus we pray - - Amen.