

Act 2:29-36

My friends, it is right for me to speak to you about our ancestor David. He died and was buried, and his tomb is still here. But David was a prophet, and he knew that God had made a promise he would not break. He had told David that someone from his own family would someday be king. David knew this would happen, and so he told us that Christ would be raised to life. He said that God would not leave him in the grave or let his body decay. All of us can tell you that God has raised Jesus to life! Jesus was taken up to sit at the right side of God, and he was given the Holy Spirit, just as the Father had promised. Jesus is also the one who has given the Spirit to us, and that is what you are now seeing and hearing. David didn't go up to heaven. So he wasn't talking about himself when he said, "The Lord told my Lord to sit at his right side, until he made my Lord's enemies into a footstool for him."

Everyone in Israel should then know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, *even though* you put him to death on a cross.

no matter how bad Good Friday was, it doesn't change how good Easter Day is.
no matter what victory Satan thought he'd won, the resurrection showed him that he is destined to be a loser forever, that the final battle is lost

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, *even though* you put him to death on a cross.

In the resurrection Jesus defeated death and satan, and we are heirs to that promise
→ what he did, he did for us.

That means we are free from satan
 free from death
 free from sin
 free from fear

Q. DO WE LIVE IN THAT TRUTH?

A. No – at best, sometimes.

The closest I got was in my early days – all new and exciting, and anything could happen:

Bible – reading it for the first time; learning and going, “did you know about this bit...”

Prayer – up early; seeing answers; hearing from God for me and others

Worship – not just favourite songs or right topic; train after Wembley

Healing – for myself

Spiritual warfare – after Telfords gig

Evangelism – though a lot of my friends were intellectual atheists, so it was more like Apologetics!

Psalm 51:12

Restore to me the joy of your salvation (NIV)

ME TOO!

I'm busier, more tired, and have more responsibility than I had then. I've seen a lot, and not all good.

BUT THAT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO AFFECT MY JOY.

I still love Jesus, and still love serving him, but if I'm going to live in the truth of Easter for all to see, I need to ask the same as David did – restore to me the joy of your salvation.