

April 9, 2023

Living Hope, 1 Peter 1:3-9

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- Happy Easter! Today, we celebrate not only flowers, bunnies, and chocolates, but the foundation of our faith.
 - The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Our entire belief and practice hinges on this one event.
- I want to attempt to tell the Christian story as a three-act play and show how the resurrection is the crucial point that holds it all together.

Tragedy

- The theologian Frederick Buechner described the gospel as this three-act play in his book *Telling the Truth*. The first act is a tragedy.
 - The tragedy is the backdrop for the gospel and the context which makes the gospel coherent, relevant, and urgent.
- **Point:** The tragedy is man's fall away from God the Father.
 - The Christian story begins with God's loving, joyful creation of the world and of mankind.
 - But Adam and Eve chose their own way and fell away from their relationship with God. Into the world comes sin, death, and suffering.
 - This includes the tragedy of our choosing our own way over God every day.
 - Consider how Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, but we sell him every day for less.
 - We raise a rebellion against God with our sins. And for our rebellion, the sentence is death.
 - This is the tragedy.

Comedy

- What do we mean by comedy?
 - The comedy is not slapstick, surrealist, or irreverent as we often think of comedies today. By comedy, we mean in a more classical sense. High comedy.
 - We mean that despite the problems, the story has a happy ending and that it is often unexpected.
- **Point:** The comedy is God the Son's incarnation as man, substitutionary death for our sin, and resurrection from the grave.
 - Who could have guessed it!
 - That God would become man....
 - That Jesus Christ would die in the place of sinners.... (The tragedy of the incarnation)
 - That God the Father would raise Jesus from the dead....

Fairy Tale

- What does it all mean? It means that our sins are forever washed away. Our debt is paid in full. The Father has received the Son's work and is now ready to apply it to us.
 - Here is where the fairy tale comes in: the promise that because of Jesus' work, the world will not always be this way (5-8).
- **Point:** The fairy tale is that by his work, we can join him in paradise one day, and we are given a living hope for the present.
 - What does it mean to have hope? "Hope is what you get when you suddenly realize that a different worldview is possible, a worldview in which the rich, the powerful, and the unscrupulous do not after all have the last word. The same worldview shift that is demanded by the resurrection of Jesus is the shift that will enable us to transform the world."¹

End Notes

¹ N. T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope* (New York: HarperCollins, 2008), 75.