

Beelzebub said, "But if in His divine nature He was so strong He came and took Lazarus from our hands, and we could not hold him, how can we hold Him Himself?" That was the problem.<sup>8</sup>

Now I am going back. What is the real secret of the resurrection? That Jesus arose from the dead? No! Lots of men had risen from the dead. A way back in the Old Testament they opened a grave to bury a man, and when he touched the bones of Elisha there was enough of the Spirit of God in the old dry bones to give him life, and he arose. But he brought no revelation of God and manifested no particular power of God in the world.

The son of the widow of Nain was truly dead and was raised to life, but he brought no revelation from the dead. Lazarus was dead four days and restored again, but so far as the record goes, Lazarus knew no more after his resurrection than he did before.

At the crucifixion of Jesus Himself many that were dead arose and appeared in the city.<sup>9</sup>

It was not in the mere fact then, that they arose from the dead or that Jesus arose from the dead that gives the secret of the resurrection. I want you to see what it is.

All the way along in the life of Jesus there is a growth in consciousness of God. Step by step Jesus Christ discerned God and His purpose for man and God's purpose for Himself. Step by step Jesus entered into the truth of His vision. Step by step Jesus revealed the power of God in the new light that had dawned upon His soul until finally, after He had manifested His power in these three degrees of death, ending in the resurrection of Lazarus. After he had been dead four days, He began to talk to His disciples about a new problem and a new possibility. He began to open the fact that He Himself was likely to be crucified. In fact, that it was in the prophecies that He should be and in the determined councils of the godhead.

<sup>8</sup> The Gospel of Nicodemus Part 2, Chapter 4, from the Apocrypha. The Apocrypha is a collection of writings considered by most Bible scholars to be uninspired and of doubtful authority. Written between 1200 B.C. and 150 A.D., they provide colorful stories and some historical background.

<sup>9</sup> See Matthew 27:52-53.