

On the River of Death

Author and minister Max Lucado, in his book *Six Hours One Friday*, tells the story of a missionary in Brazil who discovered a tribe of Indians in a remote part of the jungle.

They lived near a large river. The tribe was in need of medical attention. A contagious disease was ravaging the population. People were dying daily.

A hospital was not too terribly far away – across the river – but the Indians would not cross it because they believed the river was inhabited by evil spirits. And to enter its water would mean certain death.

The missionary explained how he had crossed the river and was unharmed. But they were not impressed. He then took them to the bank and placed his hand in the water. They still wouldn't go in. He walked into the water up to his waist and splashed water on his face. It didn't matter. They were still afraid to enter the river.

Finally, the missionary dived into the water and swam beneath the surface until he emerged on the other side. He raised a triumphant fist into the air. He had entered the water and escaped. It was then that the Indians broke into a cheer and followed him across.

Think about that story. Isn't that what Jesus did?

He entered the river of death and came out on the other side so that we might no longer fear death, but find eternal life in Him.

That's the story of Easter. Christ was willing to leave the throne room of heaven to accomplish the will of His Father, to be born in a lowly manger in the little town of Bethlehem, to grow into a teacher and preacher, to validate His Kingdom credentials with the miracles He performed, to be falsely accused and tried, and to be sentenced to die on the cross.

But thank God, He arose from the grave and ascended into heaven. And because of Him and His amazing grace, we have eternal life by exercising our faith in Jesus, making Him the Lord of our lives.

Hallelujah! The resurrected Christ calls us into a life of obedience and service.

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9 ESV).

