



Sermon Discussion Questions

Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012

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Celebrate: best.news.ever.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 24:1-12

Introduce it: Begin thinking about the sermon

We begin a new series this Sunday called "Celebration". Perhaps the most overlooked aspect of God's character is that He loves to celebrate. God loves to celebrate and God wants those who follow Jesus to be people of celebration. We will spend the next weeks looking at all the ways that the Scripture calls us to celebrate and the things it calls us to celebrate. There is no greater way to begin this series than with a focus on our greatest celebration: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

When growing up, what are things that you remember celebrating? Birthdays, awards, good news, holidays, etc...? What are some of the celebrations that you still remember today and why? What stood out about these celebrations above all the rest?

Revisit it: Look back at the passages taught

Read Luke 24:1-12

Let's look at this passage and put ourselves in the story at different points. Imagine you were the two women that arrived at the tomb. It tells us "they wondered about this". What are all the things you can think of that could have gone through their heads as to what happened to the body of Jesus? Do you think at any point they imagined him being raised from the dead?

*Leader-some thoughts could have been his body stolen, the disciples took him, the military took him, the Jewish leaders took him, was he really dead, etc...

Imagine hearing the words again that Jesus spoke about being risen. Describe how you think the two women reacted. How would you have reacted? What would you have done?

*Leader-shock, stunned, elated, wept in joy, etc...

Had you been in the group of Eleven that were then told this news, what would your reaction have been? Why would you have believed them or why not? What would you have done after hearing this?

*Leader-don't believe, tell them they are grieving and not thinking straight, left the room, believed, ran to see for yourself, thought the two men stole the body and gone to find them, etc...

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

What is the argument going on in the Corinth Church that Paul is addressing?

*Leader-some are saying there is no resurrection of the dead at all.

What are all the things that Paul list here would be true IF there were no resurrection of the dead?

*Leader- Christ is not risen, preaching is useless, faith is useless, we are false witnesses about God, faith is futile, we are still in slavery to sin, those already dead are lost forever, we are to be pitied.

Look at this in the opposite way now. Because Christ is risen, what are we called to celebrate?

*Leader-Christ is risen, preaching is purposeful, faith is what we live by, we witness truthfully, we are no longer slaves to sin, those that have died will be risen, we will rise.

Use It: Don't just learn the passage-apply it

What are things in your life that you need to invite the risen Christ to raise from the dead? What are things that you continue to find yourself in slavery to that you are praying God would raise from the dead?

Who are people this week that you can take steps with to tell about the risen Jesus-to witness truthfully to-to help them realize they no longer have to be a slave to sin-that they too can have eternal life?

(more)

In what ways can we daily "celebrate" this good news and not just on Easter Sunday?

*Leader-thankfulness each day for Christ, tell others this good news, live daily knowing that Christ has forgiven us and we can forgive others, etc...

Remember It: Memorize the verse

Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:20; "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Teach this verse to your children and help them to celebrate that Christ is risen. This is the primary reason for celebration on Easter!