

Easter Sunday – April 21, 2019

Today's Key Texts:

Matthew 28:1-8

“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you.’ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell His disciples.”

Romans 1:1-6

*“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was **declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead**, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ...”*

The Essential Role of Easter in Christian Faith

- ⇒ A modern-day writer calls the resurrection of Christ “a necessary and crowning _____,” and says that “without Easter, there is no Christianity.” (Douglas Groothuis)
- ⇒ The Apostle Paul put it this way: “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is _____ and so is your faith.” (I Cor. 15:14)
- ⇒ Some evidences for the accuracy of the biblical record:
 - The first visitors to the tomb are _____.
 - They’re expecting to find the _____ of Jesus.

What Does Jesus' Resurrection Prove?
Matthew 28:1-8 & Romans 1:1-6
Pastor Jay Mosser

- They are _____ at the sight of an angel, _____ at the thought of resurrection, and they _____ to believe. They are not naïve, easily convinced, pre-scientific school-children.
- Many of these same Easter-morning visitors are eventually SO convinced of Jesus' resurrection that they willingly _____ for its truthfulness. Few people die for what they know is untrue.

The Resurrection SHOUTS the Truth About Jesus' Identity

- ⇒ When people today want to announce something to the world, they have a variety of ways to do so – social media, billboards, newspapers, TV, radio, etc. God wanted to “_____” the truth about Jesus' identity as the divine Son of God, He raised Him from the dead in a very public & well-documented event!
- ⇒ Paul would later remind King Agrippa that “this has not been done in a _____.” (Acts 26:26) The early followers of Jesus are accused of “filling Jerusalem with this teaching” (Acts 5:28) – meaning, if it could be easily refuted or proved wrong, the religious or city leaders would have done so.
- ⇒ In Romans 1, Paul makes two comments about Jesus' identity, one related to His true humanity, and the other to His divine nature:
 - Jesus is the “Son of David” – The OT says that the Jewish Messiah would be in David's line, as both Mary & Joseph were. Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus had a true human body & nature.
 - Jesus is “declared” the “Son of God” – The point here is that the resurrection is the full, final, powerful, and greatest-possible proof that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. He is, in fact, who He said He is!

What This Means for You

- ⇒ The Bible says that Jesus died on the cross in your place, paying the penalty that your sins deserve. Those who trust Christ & Him alone as their sin-bearer, are forgiven by God. Are YOU trusting Christ as the One who paid for your sin?
- ⇒ Without Easter, there is no Christianity. Christ's death & resurrection, then, form a foundation of objective, solid Truth to build your life on. Trusting Christ & Him alone is the ONLY God-approved preparation for death & eternity. Jesus said, “...no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

So how was it...Easter, that is? Candy, dinner with friends & family, personal devotions, conversations...any highlights to share?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: Read the texts (Matthew 28:1-8 & Romans 1:1-6) and review the main sermon points from your notes. Beyond the obvious parts of the story, what was the sermon about?
2. Most of us have heard the Easter story many times. Think for a moment about the “objective” elements – the empty tomb, the soldiers who reportedly get paid off to tell a lie, the scared disciples, women as first-reporters – what “objective evidence” for Jesus’ resurrection do you find most convincing?
3. In what sense is Jesus’ resurrection from the dead solid proof about His identity as both Son of David and Son of God? What does the resurrection tell us that other of Jesus’ miracles don’t? (Romans 1:3-4)
4. READ Acts 17:31 where Paul speaks about how the resurrection gives “proof” of coming judgment (especially clear in the NAS). In what sense is that true?
5. The book of Acts tells the story of the early church. Look at the texts listed below from the early chapters of Acts. Apparently, the early followers of

Jesus couldn’t stop talking about the resurrection. What do you notice? How do you think the people in Jerusalem would have responded? After all, it hadn’t been that long since the events took place.

- a. Acts 1:3, 22
- b. Acts 2:23-24, 32
- c. Acts 3:15
- d. Acts 4:2, 10, 33

Taking It Further & Taking It Home

Let’s get very personal: Jesus walked through death’s door ahead of us. How does His death AND resurrection give you perspective & courage as you face death in this life – the death of others...and someday, yours?

Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs.

Next Sunday Worship: April 28, 2019

“A Call to the Nations: Come!”

(Matthew 21:12-46)

Pastor Tyler Pease

Answer Key: • credential • useless • women • body • alarmed • terrified • struggle • suffer & die • declare • corner