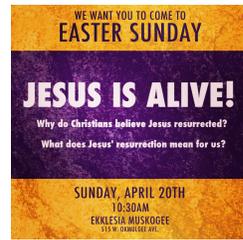


COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 4/22-23/14

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST



SCRIPTURE

JOHN 20:1-29 1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her. 24 Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” 26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

BIG IDEA

The foundation of Christianity rests solely on the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The resurrection means that sin, death, and hopelessness do not win—Jesus does. It means the grave does not win, and the empty tomb is the final word of Jesus. It means Jesus really did die for our sin and really did rise for our salvation. Easter Sunday is the day that Christians all over the world celebrate and remember the life-changing, life-giving, death-defeating, joy-increasing fact that Jesus is alive! There at least 11 results of Jesus resurrection:

1. A SAVIOR WHO CAN NEVER DIE AGAIN.

Romans 6:9 “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.”

2. REPENTANCE.

Acts 5:31 “God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

3. NEW BIRTH.

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed (praised!) be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

4. FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

1 Corinthians 15:17–20 “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep (physically died) in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.”

5. JUSTIFICATION.

Romans 4:25 “[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Acts 2:32-33 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”

7. NO CONDEMNATION.

Romans 8:33-34 “Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

8. NEVER-ENDING PERSONAL FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS.

Matthew 28:20 “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

9. PROOF OF COMING JUDGEMENT.

Acts 17:31 “God has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

10. SALVATION FROM THE FUTURE WRATH OF GOD.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 “We wait for God's Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come..” (Romans 5:10)

11. OUR OWN RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD.

2 Corinthians 4:14 “We know that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us into his presence.” (Romans 6:4; 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20)

DISCUSSION

1. Was there anything from the sermon or the big idea that stood out to you or challenged you? Was there anything new? Was there anything confusing?

2. What stands out to you in **John 20:1-29** and why?

3. **Who do you most identify with:** 1) Mary Magdelene, who had made a wreck out her life but was comforted by Jesus' resurrection? 2) Thomas, who didn't believe in the resurrected Savior but was later convinced and worshipped him as Lord and God? What do we learn from Mary's encounter with Jesus? What about Thomas' encounter?

4. Which of the above mentioned "11 Results of Jesus' Resurrection" give you the most joy and hope? Why?

5. Spend some time praying for **the lost to be saved by Jesus**, praying for **your city**, and praying for God to provide for **the future church plant** in Checotah (launches May 4th).

GOOD WORD

“Peter was made to walk on water in his old body. Imagine what Jesus will enable you to do in your new one?” — Larry Dick

“There we will see His face and never ever sin; there from the rivers of His grace drink endless pleasures in.” — Isaac Watts