

Easter Part 4- The Resurrection | 5/12/19

- The importance of the resurrection
 - Easter is a time in which we reflect upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - This is, in a sense, the reflection of the beginning of Christianity.
 - It is also unique to Christians. No other religion has a crucified savior.
 - The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ are foundational to Christianity.
 - Christians don't always understand just how important the resurrection is.
 - **If you remove the resurrection, then Christianity falls apart because that means that Christ is NOT the Messiah.**
 - Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. Our faith is worthless.
 - The resurrection cannot be understated. It is a vital foundation to our beliefs. Paul understood this truth.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:13-14
 - "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is without foundation, and so is our faith.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17
 - "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."
 - If the resurrection is false, then the Christians should be pitied for our beliefs.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:19
 - "If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone."
 - If there is no resurrected savior, then life's purpose is to eat, drink and then die.
 - Without the resurrection, our lives no longer have a purpose. We would live to fulfill our desires and nothing else.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:32
 - "If I fought wild animals in Ephesus with only human hope, what good did that do me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."
 - **But we know and believe the resurrection to be true, which gives us hope and faith in our resurrected Savior.**
- Jesus was buried | John 19:38-42
 - Joseph (secret disciple of Jesus) and Nicodemus (Pharisee) retrieved the body of Jesus and buried Him in a tomb.
 - **Read John 19:38-42**
 - These men were guided by God to put Jesus in this exact tomb. This was not by accident or coincidence but was part of God's plan.
- The resurrection
 - The chief priests and the Pharisees requested armed guards for the tomb of Jesus
 - **Read Matthew 27:62-66**
 - They were aware that Jesus had stated that He would rise in 3 days.
 - They were terrified of this especially if it came true!
 - They didn't want anyone to make it appear that Jesus had risen because they knew what this would mean to those who believed in Him.
 - They wanted His death to be the end of their "Jesus problem."

- What they did not know was that by having the armed guard present, they would provide more proof that Jesus indeed had risen.
 - **Do you think they were mostly concerned about his body being stolen, or perhaps did they think He might actually do it?**
- An angel rolled back the stone which was witnessed by the guards. | Matthew 28:1-4
 - ***Read Matthew 28:1-4***
 - The chief priests and Pharisees having set their armed guard and boulder in place, assumed this would be the final word they would hear about Jesus.
 - However, God used this to give further evidence to the miraculous resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - As an angel of the Lord descended an earthquake shook the ground. The angel then moved the stone away which was witnessed by the soldiers.
 - The soldiers were knocked unconscious, but they did bear witness to what happened.
 - **What did the angel roll away the stone?**
 - **What purpose could the witness of the soldiers serve?**
- Mary Magdalene and company (the women) found the stone having been rolled away. | Mark 16:1-4
 - Mary Magdalene and company (the women) were traveling to the tomb to bring burial spices that they had prepared.
 - **Upon their arrival, the stone had already been rolled away, and the guards had fled.**
 - Matthew 28:1
 - “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.”
 - ***Read Mark 16:1-4***
 - There were other women there as well.
 - Luke 23:55
 - “The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid.”
 - Luke 24:10
 - “Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,”
- Mary Magdalene is separated from the group of women to find Peter and John.
 - Mary Magdalene was with the group initially, but after seeing the stone rolled away, she hurries off to find Peter and John (the one whom Jesus loved).
 - John 20:1-2
 - “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. 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.”
 - **Peter and John are not with the larger group of disciples.**
- The women encounter the angels who tell them that Jesus has risen. | Luke 24:1-8
 - The women who were there in the beginning had an encounter with two angels who testified that Jesus had risen.
 - The angel reminded them that these events happened for a purpose and that Jesus had told them it would happen. He must be crucified and die so that He could rise again on the 3rd day.
 - ***Read Luke 24:1-8***

- Luke and John mention both of the angels while Matthew and Mark only identify the one who is speaking.
 - Mark 16:5
 - “And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.
 - Matthew 28:5-6
 - “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.”
- Peter and John run to the tomb and see that Jesus is gone. | John 20:3-10
 - Mary after telling Peter and John that Jesus is gone, run to the tomb to see this for themselves.
 - **Read John 20:3-10**
 - John made it to the tomb first, but Peter was the first to enter.
 - Peter found an interesting sight that the linen cloths were lying there except for the face cloths as it was folded up.
 - **The burial cloths were undisturbed and likely resembled someone had passed through them.**
 - **What does this description tell us about how He was resurrected?**
- Jesus’s first appearance to Mary Magdalene. | John 20:11-18
 - Mary returned to the tomb following Peter and John. They leave, but she stays behind and is crying outside of the tomb. However, she is the one whom Jesus chose to first reveal Himself to.
 - **Read John 20:11-18**
 - Mark 16:9
 - “Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.”
 - While Mary at first did not recognize Jesus, at the sound of His voice, she immediately knew it was Him.
 - John 10:27
 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”
 - **Mary is now the first one to see the resurrected Savior, Jesus who died but came back to show that death could not keep Him and that He truly is the Messiah.**
 - **Why do you think Jesus chose Mary to be the first one to whom He revealed Himself too?**
- Jesus appears to the other women on the road while they are going to find the disciples. | Matthew 28:8-10
 - After Jesus had appeared to Mary, He appeared to the women who were running to find the disciples.
 - **Read Matthew 28:8-10**
 - Jesus reinforced the command for them to go and tell the disciples about all that they had seen.
- Mary and company tell the disciples about what they have seen, but they do not yet believe. | Luke 24:9-12
 - **Luke summarizes how Mary and the women (who have now seen Jesus) find the disciples and tell them everything that they have seen.**
 - **Yet we are told that the disciples still do not yet believe what they have told them.**
 - **Read Luke 24:9-12**

- Even though Jesus told the disciples that He would be resurrected, they still didn't believe at first.
- John 20:9-10
 - “For they still did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went home again.”
- **Why do you think they had such a hard time believing He had been resurrected?**
- The guards return to the chief priests to tell them what they witnessed. | Matthew 28:11-15
 - While these events are taking place the guards, who had been at the tomb and saw the angel, make their report to the chief priests.
 - ***Read Matthew 28:11-15***
 - One can only imagine what the chief priests and elders thought of this, but they knew that the guards were undoubtedly not lying about what they saw.
 - To attempt not to let the truth get out, they paid off the soldiers and to tell the world that the Jews had stolen His body.
 - The seed of doubt was sewn with a lie.
 - This lie is why some of the Jews today do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - This lie took hold, and those who followed the chief priests took their word as truth and therefore believed that this resurrection never took place.
 - Satan’s lies were effective for some, but others believed the truth.
 - **What do you think it was like at that meeting with the chief priests and elders?**
- Jesus appears to the disciples on the road to Emmaus | Luke 24:13-32
 - ***Read Luke 24:13-32***
 - These disciples were discussing amongst themselves about Jesus, and they had a glimmer of hope regarding His resurrection.
 - Jesus appeared to them with His identity concealed at first, but then preceded to remind them that He had to be crucified.
 - He also interpreted for them the Scriptures.
 - Luke 24:25-27
 - They then believed in the resurrected Savior
 - Luke 24:30-35
- Jesus appears to the eleven | Luke 24:33-43
 - As the two disciples were telling of their experience to the eleven, Jesus appears
 - ***Read Luke 24:33-43***
 - The Gospel of John tells us that the door was locked.
 - John 20:19
 - “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, Peace be with you.”
 - Jesus appears to Peter (Simon)
 - Luke 24:34
 - “who said, The Lord has certainly been raised, and has appeared to Simon!”
 - Jesus appeared to Peter however we do not have the details of this encounter.
 - Jesus likely encouraged him since he had denied him three times previously.
 - Jesus proves it is He and that he is not present only as a Spirit
 - To prove that Jesus was there in His resurrected body, He showed them his nailed hands and feet.
 - He invited them to touch Him so that they could be sure of what they were seeing.

- He also asked for food and ate it, which again further proved He was indeed present.
- **The disciples at this time were given a foreshadowing of the Holy Spirit that they would receive in full on the day of Pentecost 50 days later.**
 - A gift of power from God was bestowed upon them, to carry them through until it was given in its entirety.
 - John 20:21b-22
 - “...As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them Receive the Holy Spirit.
- Christian can declare that by obedience to God’s Word that He (not the Christian) will forgive them of their sins.
 - John 20:23
 - “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”
- Doubting Thomas sees and feels Jesus | John 20:24-29
 - Thomas was not there when Jesus appeared to the disciples, but eight days later Thomas had a physical encounter with the resurrected Jesus Christ.
 - **Read John 20:24-29**
 - A picture of faith for those who believe without seeing and its importance is shown here.
 - Jesus doesn't want our belief only because we have seen him physically with our eyes. He wants our faith and truth in Him to be much deeper.
 - **Can you see “doubting Thomas” in the world today?**
- Jesus reminds them of the fulfillment of Scripture and opens their minds. | Luke 24:44-49
 - **Read Luke 24:44-49**
 - Jesus now opens the minds of the disciples, and they obtain understanding into the Scriptures and why Christ had to sacrifice Himself upon the cross for their sins.
 - Jesus did this as they (and the rest of the Christians) would be His hands and feet, His witness to the world to share and spread the Gospel.
- The great commission | Matthew 28:16-20
 - The disciples (and all Christians) were now given their most important assignment, to share the Gospel with the entire world.
 - This was not just something for the disciples but for all Christians.
 - **Read Matthew 28:16-20**
 - **It is our God-given duty as Christians to continue the great commission and to bring the Gospel into the whole world.**
- The Ascension and His other post-resurrection appearances.
 - After Jesus was resurrected, He stayed for 40 days before He returned to the Father in heaven.
 - Acts 1:3
 - “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”
 - During this time, He made other appearances to the believers in various places.
 - At the Sea of Tiberias – John 21:1-23
 - To a large crowd of over 500 – 1 Corinthians 15:6
 - At a mountain in Galilee - Matthew 28:16-17
 - To James – 1 Corinthians 15:7
 - Then Jesus ascended into heaven, though He WILL return.
 - Luke 24:49-53, Acts 1:6-11