

Title: The Truth of the Resurrection

Passage: John 20:1-10

Key Truths

For Non-Believers:

- Your lack of belief into Jesus is not due to lack of evidence or proof
 - but rather you are not wanting to submit yourself to Him as Lord.
 - You do not want to submit to Jesus because that means you follow Him rather than follow yourself.
- Question: Are you willing to submit yourself to the Truth of Jesus? It is the most reasonable faith in the world.

For Believers.

- It is a matter of the heart that keep people from believing in Jesus.
 - Salvation and believing in Jesus is a personal matter.
- As a Christian, do not carry the burden that you are the reason why others do not believe (children, neighbors, etc.).
 - It is not because you were not good enough or smart enough as an example before others. Pray for heart change.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- When has a positive happening in your life appeared at first to be confusing, unfortunate, or tragic event?
- What truths of the gospel do you want to investigate more closely?
- Whom do you need to tell about the empty tomb of Christ? How?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Easter / Resurrection Sunday

- the most important event in a Christian's life.
 - Proof that our sins have been forgiven through the resurrection of Jesus.
- God knew we needed a Savior so He sent Jesus.

Today's culture

- Many do not believe in absolute truth

- But in relative terms = my truth is mine while your truth is yours.
- Yet people still look for the truth behind “fake news” (sensationalist news).
 - There is a heart desire to know the truth, which is not relative.
- Reality: people pick and choose when to seek the truth.
 - When it is convenient, people push or seek the truth.
 - But when it is problematic or inconvenient or contrary to their interests, people do not seek the truth.

-

Passage:

John 20:1-10

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.” So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

EXPOSITION

John 20:1

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.

Now on the first day of the week

- Symbolism of the importance of Sunday
 - Start with worship and rest of life outflows.
- Contrast: Jewish culture/tradition focus on worship on Saturday while they do not do anything on Sabbath.

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark

- Mary Magdalene was one of the women that followed Jesus during Jesus' earthly ministry.
- This passage does not say she was by herself but was with other women (see other accounts in the Bible)
- “While it was still dark”

- the darkness of the environment reflects the darkness of Mary’s perception of Jesus death.
 - She didn’t know yet Jesus had risen.

and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

- Tombs were usually small rooms cut into stone.
- The tomb also had guards posted:

Matthew 27:62-66

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

- Guard = 12-16 group of soldiers
- But when Mary Magdalene came, she didn’t see any guards and the stone was moved.
 - How?

Matthew 28:2-4

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.

John 20:2a

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,

- Mary Magdalene ran to tell the news to Simon Peter and John (author of the Gospel).

John 20:2b

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

- Who is “they”?
 - She thought the Roman soldiers had taken Jesus’ body.

- The disciples did not remember nor believed that Jesus would rise again.

John 20:3-5

So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

John 20:6-8

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

He saw the linen cloths lying there...not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself

- Jewish burial customs: wrapped in linen bands that enclosed dried spices.
 - They were wrapped in such a way that left the face, neck, and shoulders bare. (“linen cloths”)
 - The head was also wrapped such as a turban. (“the face cloth”)
 - 75 pounds of spices were woven among the linen.

Luke 7:12-15

As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.

John 11:44

The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

- These show that bodies were wrapped but not the head. The previously dead men were able to speak upon being resurrected.

Objections:

- Jesus' body was taken away.
 - But why strip the body of the linens and leave them behind?

- Jesus body was stolen.
 - But why were the linen clothes folded up in place?

Implications for Non-Believers

- The evidence of Jesus' resurrection is overwhelming:
 - Empty tomb.
 - No body was ever found.
 - Many witnesses.
 - Changed characters of the disciples
 - From cowards to courageous / willing to die for the claim that Jesus resurrected and is God.
 - Claims of Jesus' resurrection were never recanted by the disciples.
 - Undisturbed burial garments.
- Your lack of belief into Jesus is not due to lack of evidence or proof
 - but rather you are not wanting to submit yourself to Him as Lord.
 - You do not want to submit to Jesus because that means you follow Him rather than follow yourself.
- Question: Are you willing to submit yourself to the Truth of Jesus?
 - It is the most reasonable faith in the world.

Implications for Believers.

- It is a matter of the heart that keep people from believing in Jesus.
 - Salvation and believing in Jesus is a personal matter.
- As a Christian, do not carry the burden that you are the reason why others do not believe (children, neighbors, etc.).
 - It is not because you were not good enough or smart enough as an example before others

Key Summary Points

- Jesus resurrected to a new, glorified body.
- The transformation of the body of Jesus Christ translates into a new mode of life.
 - we are the harvest and we will be like Jesus.
 - In resurrection, our bodies will be glorified. Free from pain and suffering.
 - Temptation: we are so focused on earth that we forget we are actually heaven-bound.

Colossians 3:2-4

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- Instead of having morbid fear of the future or death, focus on the beauty and wonder of heaven.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- Let the future resurrection excite you. It is true!

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.