

“Resurrection Faith”

Sermon Notes

- **You are not now, nor have you ever been, nor will you ever be suffering from anything a good resurrection can’t fix**

**If you belong to Jesus, then imitate the resurrection faith of your father Abraham. May we as Christians never forget that...*

1. Abraham’s body was as good as dead (Romans 4:16-19a)
2. Sarah’s womb was a veritable graveyard (Romans 4:19b-25)
3. Issac’s neck was literally on the line (Hebrews 11:17-19)

But what if we **don’t belong to Jesus? (1 Peter 1:3)*

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of April 4th-10th

Getting Started

1. Do you have a favorite memory of Resurrection Sunday? Think back on all of the Easter holidays in which you've had the privilege to participate. It may be a holy moment from a worship gathering, or a silly moment on an egg hunt. If you have a story, please share it with the group.

Digging Deeper

2. Imagine that tomorrow morning, all of the news outlets the world over announced an earth-shaking discovery in an ancient Palestinian tomb: the bodily remains of Jesus of Nazareth. Apart from the difficulty of testing such a claim, let's assume it's completely true - that Jesus' body really was found. What would be the implications for your Christian faith? What would change in your convictions, your ethics, or your aims or goals in this life?

Now, read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and 30-32. Does your answer look anything like the Apostle Paul's? Finally, read (and savor) the truth of 1 Corinthians 15:20. Walking back through verses 12-19 and 30-32, discuss the implications as a group.

Open Your Bible to 1 Peter 1:3...

3. Not only is the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ the absolute lynchpin of the Christian faith, its historical reality insures some of the most precious certainties of our lives as believers. For example, consider the connection that Peter makes between our new birth and the bodily resurrection of Jesus in 1 Peter 1:3. What is that connection? (Consider also passages such as Ephesians 2:5-6; Colossians 3:1; and Philippians 3:10)

4. Now that we've begun in 1 Peter 1:3, let's keep reading about all the blessings that tumble out of the empty tomb from verses 4 to 9. According to this passage (in addition to our new birth) how many other different massive realities hang on the historical fact of the resurrection? How does this make you feel?

5. Let's turn now to the relationship between the fact of the bodily resurrection of Christ and our justification. In Romans 4:25, Paul says that Jesus was "raised for our justification". Recall that justification is God's legal declaration in which he regards our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in his sight. So, what's the connection between our justification and Christ's resurrection? What does it mean in Romans 4:25 that Jesus was "raised for our justification"? Why does this matter?

6. One further (and future) reality that the New Testament makes abundantly clear is that our future bodily resurrection and glorification is intimately tied to the fact of Christ's resurrection. Take a look at 1 Corinthians 6:14, 2 Corinthians 4:14, and 1 Corinthians 15:20. What sort of confidence does this give you as you contemplate your own death and especially the return of Christ?

7. As we learned in the sermon: **You are not now, nor have you ever been, nor will you ever be suffering from anything a good resurrection can't fix.** What immediate, practical help and hope does this truth provide you in the midst of your current struggles? Get specific, taking time to share with one another in your group.

8. Last (but in no way least), let's consider the folks on our 'List of 5'. Are you in near enough proximity with them on a regular basis that they have the opportunity to see up close the difference a resurrection makes? As you close your time together, consider praying through truths such as Ephesians 1:15-20 and Romans 6:4-14. If the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then pray that the unbelievers in your life would see his mighty power at work in and through you for his glory and their ultimate salvation (Romans 8:11).