

Pastor David's notes for 4/3-4/2010

Easter Weekend

Following From The Empty Tomb

on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

"The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again."

Then they remembered his words. When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Luke 24:1-12

Page 2

"Following From The Empty Tomb"

Through the events that follow from the discovery of the empty tomb, we see the reality of Jesus' resurrection break into peoples' lives:

1. in the face of real questions
2. in response to personal interest/desire
3. with universal shock and surprise
4. in intimate/mundane moments
5. with a profound sense of beginning and not end



CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,
and small group discussion & comment

“Following From The Empty Tomb” - Luke 23:66-24:53

1. The women who came to the tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint Jesus’ body did so out of love, service and devotion. That they were the first to discover that the tomb was empty and to hear the angel’s message of resurrection, “He has risen”, seems fitting. The women’s love and devotion was not the reason they came to believe that Jesus was raised, but it put them in the place to discover that truth. What role does interest or desire play in finding the reality of faith? What has moved you to look more closely into the question of Jesus for your own answers?

2. In spite of Jesus foretelling his disciples that he would be crucified “and on the third day be raised again” (Lk 9:22; 24:7), everyone who encounters the risen Lord is utterly surprised. The women at the tomb don’t expect it, the disciples in the room don’t expect it, the two travellers on the road don’t expect it. Even for those raised with a knowledge of the resurrection, the reality that the crucified Jesus is risen and encountering their lives can be a shock. What has happened in your life to make you marvel with the disciples, “It is true! The Lord has risen” (Luke 24:34)? Where have you felt the impact of His risen life?

3. In the village of Emmaus, Jesus is recognized by two of His followers when He breaks bread with them and gives thanks (Lk 24:30-31). What do you conclude about their failure to recognize Him before this point? What would have been so “eye-opening” about sharing bread with Him across the table?

4. Luke’s gospel is volume one of a two volume set with its sequel, “The Book of Acts”, in the New Testament. All four of the gospels in our Bible end with a real sense that this story is to be continued. When we find faith and encounter Christ post-crucifixion and resurrection, are we at the end or the beginning of our story? In what way is the impact and meaning of Jesus’ resurrection still being told in our lives today?

5. In Luke 24:36 the risen Jesus greets His disciples with the words, “Peace be with you”. We spoke last week about Jesus moving toward the cross and coming to Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey “pressing for peace”. Why were words of peace in this first encounter so important and significant for them and us to hear? What did “peace” mean to them in this moment?
