



“TURN AROUND”

Sermon Notes

Text: John 20:1-18

Introduction:

The resurrection is the greatest turn around story of all time.

1. The Resurrection is Real

Three problems for skeptics:

- i. The Empty Tomb
- ii. The Witnesses
- iii. The Rise of Christianity

“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world-and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.” ~Chuck Colson

“I believe those witnesses that get their throats cut” ~Blaise Pascal

2. The Resurrection is Radical

The Resurrection is radical because it's for everyone.

The Resurrection is radical because of its statement about mortality and death.

“Is there any meaning in my life that the inevitable death awaiting me does not destroy?” ~Leo Tolstoy

3. The Resurrection is Personal

v. 11-16

Mary doesn't recognize Jesus until he says her name

John 10 - “My sheep know my voice”

Romans 10:9 “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...”

Conclusion:

John 20:30-31

“On the Day of the Lord—the day that God makes everything right, the day that everything sad comes untrue—on that day the same thing will happen to your own hurts and sadness. You will find that the worst things that have ever happened to you will in the end only enhance your eternal delight. On that day, all of it will be turned inside out and you will know joy beyond the walls of the world. The joy of your glory will be that much greater for every scar you bear. So live in the light of the resurrection and renewal of this world, and of yourself, in a glorious, never-ending, joyful dance of grace.” ~Tim Keller

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What are your Easter traditions?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. This passage is a well known defence of the resurrection of Jesus. It is believed to be a creed repeated by believers in Jerusalem in the first few years after the resurrection. Also read v. 12-19. What importance does Paul place on the reality of the resurrection? Why should we be “pitied” (v. 19) if Jesus didn’t raise from death?
2. What do you think of the three challenges for skeptics (empty tomb, witnesses, rise of Christianity)? What convinces you that the resurrection is real? What questions do you still have about it?
3. The third point of the sermon was “The Resurrection is Personal”, which means that it has personal implications and applications in each of our lives. What does it mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus? How do we balance the personal part with the need for connection in Christian community?

Application:

1. Jesus told Mary not to “cling” to him (v. 17), which probably was a rebuke because she was trying to keep him for herself. Instead, he encouraged her to go tell others about what she had seen. Who do you need to tell about your faith?
2. “Turn around” is a metaphor for repentance. Repentance begins with changing the way we think (Romans 12:1-2). How will you think differently in light of the fact the the resurrection is real, radical and personal?

Prayer:

1. Pray for our city to experience the new life that is available because of the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Other requests
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