



Easter Sunday

Why Sunday?

- ★ Why do we “go to church” on Sunday?
 - ◆ Calendar: weeks start with Sunday
 - ◇ First day of the week
- ★ Imagine you’ve grown up in another culture
 - ◆ No required system to count weeks, days.
 - ◆ Pagan Rome every day was the same
 - ◆ Only Jews observed sabbath (7th day)

Why Sunday . . .

- ★ You want to gather with other Christians
 - ◆ Celebrate and remember the crucifixion
 - ◇ Good Friday every week
- ★ Early Christians – celebrate the resurrection
 - ◆ Sunday became the day for gathering

1. Fear & Confusion

- ★ Gospel accounts disordered & confused
 - ◆ Lots of fear and uncertainty
 - ◆ A group of women went to the tomb
 - ◇ To anoint & embalm the body
 - ◇ “Who will roll away the stone?” (v 3)
 - ◆ They met an angel/s
 - ◆ Looked into tomb, found no body
 - ◆ Did not know what was going on

1. Fear & Confusion ...

- ★ Fled from the tomb
 - ◆ Mention it to Peter, John & disciples
 - ◇ They went to check
 - ◆ They did not understand the Scriptures
 - ◆ They went back to their homes
- ★ In coming days, Jesus appeared to them

2. Undisputed Facts

- ★ The women were first to discover resurrection
 - ◆ Concoct fake news – not make women the source
 - ◇ Not considered reliable witnesses
 - ◆ No evidence of conspiracy
- ★ Tomb was empty, body was gone

3. Significant Consequences

- ★ Historically, resurrection essential
 - ◆ Explain what happened in coming centuries
- ★ Why did early church celebrate resurrection?
- ★ Without resurrection faith is in vain (1 Co 15:14)

3. Significant Consequences ...

- ★ He was “raised for our justification” (Rom 4:25)
 - ◆ Justification = “just-as-if-I-never-sinned”
 - ◆ Jesus’ resurrection:
 - ◆ Proof of our justification
 - ◆ Confirms God’s acceptance of his sacrifice for us
 - ◆ Incontrovertible consequence of justification – not dead
 - ◆ Justifies our resurrection (i.e. eternal life)

3. Significant Consequences ...

- ★ Baptism sacrament – miraculous unseen event
 - ◆ Our sinful natures are crucified
 - ◆ Set free from slavery to sin

– Living It –

- ★ If we give the resurrection its due weight:
 - ◆ Puts the load where it belongs – on God
 - ◇ “Was raised” is passive
 - ◇ Something done to us, not something we do
 - ◇ God is the one who defeats our sinfulness
 - ◇ Made real in experience through the Holy Spirit

– Living It –

- ◆ Puts emphasis on rescue not punishment
 - ◇ Focus on the benefits of rescue:
 - ◇ New life
 - ◇ Freedom from slavery to sin
 - ◇ Life in the Spirit
- ★ They understood God's purpose as blessing