

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it. Turn to the back for an outline of the sermon.

This week's reading in the 2015/16 reading plan includes: Leviticus 9-16; Psalms 10-19

Ice Breaker: What is something that you did not believe until you saw it for yourself?

1. Discuss anything that jumped out at you in your private devotions this week.
2. In John chapter 20, only Mary Magdalene is mentioned going to the tomb.
 1. Who else went to the tomb with her? See Mark 16:1; Matthew 28:1; Luke 24:10
 2. In verse 2 when Mary returns to the disciples she uses the word "we" in verse 2, to indicate that there were other people with her. Why do you think John only writes about Mary?
3. Mark 16:1 tells us that the women were going to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
 1. What does Mary's reaction to the empty tomb tell you about the possibility of early Christians producing a resurrection hoax?
 2. What does Mary's reaction tell you about her belief in the resurrection?
 3. At what point did the other disciple, John, believe? See verse 8.
3. As Mary is left weeping at the tomb, she is in such distress that she is not frightened by the angels nor does she recognize Jesus.
 1. At what point does Mary recognize Jesus?
 2. Has there been a point when you were unconvinced of Jesus' involvement in your life? Consider your own salvation.
 3. What convinced you of His presence?
4. What are some of the implications of Jesus rising from the dead?
 1. John 11:25-27
 2. Acts 13:37-38
 3. Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:23-25
 4. What difference do these implications make in your life?
5. How will you exhibit your belief in the resurrected Jesus this week?

Question #1**Why did Jesus have to rise from the dead?**

1. His resurrection was in the plan of God. (Rev. 13:8)
2. His resurrection was promise in the Scriptures. (Ps. 16:10; Isa. 9:6-7; 53:10)
3. His resurrection was evidence of His sacrificial atonement.

Question #2**What evidence is there that Jesus did rise from the dead?**

1. The evidence of the empty tomb. (John 20:1-2; Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8)
2. The evidence of the changed lives of the Apostles. (Act 3-4; 15:26; 17:6)
3. The evidence of the explosive growth of the Church from the preaching of Jesus' resurrection. (Acts 2:1-47; 4:1-37)

Question #3**What are the implications if Jesus did rise from the dead?**

1. Christ risen means eternal life. (John 11:25-27)
2. Christ risen means forgiveness of sins. (Acts 13:37-38; 1 Cor. 15:17)
3. Christ risen means victorious living. (Ro. 6:4)
4. Christ risen means power to bear fruit. (Ro. 7:4)
5. Christ risen means future glory. (Ro. 8:18)
6. Christ risen means Christ's intercession. (Ro. 8:34; Heb. 7:23-25)
7. Christ risen means our future resurrection. (1 Thess. 4:14; 1 Cor. 15:20-23)
8. Christ risen means death is conquered. (1 Cor. 15:26; 54-57; Luke 20:36)
9. Christ risen means freedom from self-centeredness. (1 Cor. 15:32)
10. Christ risen means serving Him is worthwhile. (1 Cor. 15:58)
11. Christ risen means we have a mission for living. (2 Cor. 5:15)
12. Christ risen means God's power. (Eph. 1:18-20)
13. There are at least three dozen more implications to the resurrection of Jesus.

Question #4**How do people believe that Jesus did rise from the dead?**

1. John believed the evidence before he saw the resurrected Lord. (20:8)
2. Mary Magdalene believed when Jesus called her name at the tomb. (20:16)
3. Peter went away from the tomb pondering, but unconvinced. (Luke 24:12)
4. In the gathering of more than 500 with Jesus resurrected, some doubted. (Matt 28:17)
5. The Athenians mocked when Paul preached the resurrection. (Acts 17:32)
6. The Thessalonians attacked Paul & Silas. (Acts 17:1-9)
7. The Bereans tested their claims with the Scriptures. (Acts 17:10-15)
8. "There is something that God has to do to affirm and to communicate truth to our hearts. Otherwise it never becomes factual or true." (W. A. Criswell, Great Doctrines of the Bible, 2, p. 157)