

## ***Resurrection Realities – Reflection Questions (Week 1)***

**Day 1 Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

- 1) Matthew is the only gospel writer to record the earthquake felt on Easter morning.
  - a. What is significant about an earthquake accompanying the resurrection?
  - b. Can you think of anywhere else in the Gospel of Matthew that an earthquake accompanied an “earth shaking” experience within the ministry of Jesus? Need a hint? See Matthew 27:54.
  - c. Tim Mackie of the Bible Project once put it this way, “The resurrection of Jesus has been a glorious “earthquake” felt around the world for centuries, changing lives, destroying death, and changing the course of human history and eternity. It started with just these few women at the tomb, then spread to the disciples, then throughout Samaria, Galilee, the Mediterranean, and beyond. It continued through to your baptism.” In what ways do you still feel the earthquake of Christ’s resurrection rumbling through your life?
- 2) Despite the command of the angel to not be afraid and the subsequent command by Jesus to do the same, what do we see at work in the women according to 28:8?
  - a. How do you see this tension of fear and great joy present in your life?
  - b. What is it that they are afraid of?
  - c. In Genesis 2, what was the immediate emotional reaction of the man and woman both within their relationship with one another and within their relationship with God? What is it about sin that has produced this kind of reaction for humans throughout history?
- 3) In Matthew 28:9, why is it significant that they were clasping his feet? Considering the whirlwind of events thus far this morning, what might the women be “testing” by grabbing onto his feet?
- 4) What is special about how Jesus addresses the disciples in Matthew 28:10?
  - a. Considering everything that happened in the Garden of Gethsemane and the hours afterwards, what is significant of how Jesus refers to his followers? They are not called followers or believers, but ...
  - b. What hope does this give you in your moments of guilt, failure, or need?

## ***Resurrection Realities – Reflection Questions (Week 1)***

**Day 2 Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**John 20:1-10 (see also Luke 24:8-12)**

- 1) How are we to understand the slight variations within the accounts of the resurrection events. For example, were there two angels or one angel at the tomb to greet the women? Was it just Mary Magdalene who went to the tomb (John 20:1) or was there a group of women that came to the tomb (Luke 24:10)?
  - a. When you think of eyewitnesses to any historical event, do they all have the same perspective on the events? Will they all pick up on and record the same details?
  - b. When we consider the gospel accounts, are these variances differences in ‘historical fact’ or differences in ‘emphasis’ and ‘importance’ and ‘perspective’?
  - c. Look at John 20 itself, how must we understand John’s recording of the events as he says in verse 1 that Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, then in verse 2a she runs to tell Peter and John, and then in verse 2b she reports, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him?” Where did these other people in the account come from?
  - d. What might John be trying to emphasize as he tells the Easter story uniquely from Mary’s perspective?
- 2) What is significant about the fact that women are the first eyewitnesses of the resurrection in all the Gospel accounts?
  - a. How would their testimony have been received within the culture of that time?
  - b. How did even most of the disciples regard the women’s report (see Luke 24:11)?
  - c. What credence does this lend to the authenticity of the events recorded, if women are the main eyewitnesses? If you were fictionally making up the events of the resurrection, would you have placed your “eyewitness testimony” upon the lips of those who couldn’t even testify in court?
- 3) When we look at the developing situation as John and Peter arrive at the empty tomb, what ‘facts’ or ‘evidence’ leads them to think deeper about what could have happened here?
  - a. What did they ‘see’ with their own eyes?
  - b. How might we characterize the two responses of Peter and John to the initial evidence?

## ***Resurrection Realities – Reflection Questions (Week 1)***

**Day 3 Thursday, April 16, 2020**

**John 20:11-18**

- 1) Humanly speaking what does Mary think has happened to the body of Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Why does it take Mary so long to consider any other possibility of what has happened to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Considering that she has the same 'evidence' as the disciples whom Jesus loved, who according to verse 8 "saw and believed," what might be holding Mary back from believing that Jesus has risen?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) In the words of NT scholar Craig Koester, "[Mary] had seen the open tomb, the two angels, and the risen Jesus himself without realizing that Jesus was alive. Her recognition was prompted by the word that Jesus spoke."
  - a. What changed with her hearing Jesus' voice calling her name?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What significance does "hearing the voice of Jesus" and "hearing her own name" have within the wider Gospel of John? Need a hint. See John 10:3-4, 16, 27.

## ***Resurrection Realities – Reflection Questions (Week 1)***

**Day 4 Friday, April 17, 2020**

**Luke 24:13-27**

- 1) In the heavily ironic exchange between Jesus and the Emmaus disciples, what is important about the “tense” of the verbs in Luke 24:19-21 as the Emmaus Road disciples talk about Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) When you think about all the “information” that the Emmaus disciples have regarding the events of these past few days, were they lacking the necessary information to believe that Jesus was risen from the dead?
  - a. Was the problem for the disciples a lack of “information” or was there something else missing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. We give Thomas quite a hard time in our preaching and teaching for needing to “see” for himself, are the Emmaus disciples any different in their Easter experience?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Even if we had been there ourselves to see the events of Easter morning, would we have been able to put together the pieces without God’s divine guidance?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What was Jesus’ response to their lack of understanding? What does he begin to provide them to move them forward into faith?

## ***Resurrection Realities – Reflection Questions (Week 1)***

**Day 5 Saturday, April 18, 2020**

**Luke 24:28-35**

- 1) As we return to our contemplation of the Emmaus disciples, we reflect upon the following quote by Edward Everett Hale.

*"Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three kinds—all they have had in the past, all they have now, and all they expect to have in the future."*

What burdens and troubles were the Emmaus disciples carrying as they walked this road from Jerusalem on the first Easter? What issues of past, present and future were on their minds?

What burdens and troubles have you been carrying lately within your walk of faith? What past, present, and future burdens and worries are keeping you from seeing Jesus at work?

- 2) What is this passage saying about humanity at large, when even those who were his own disciples could not recognize Jesus when he walked with them and they could not understand the very facts and evidence that they themselves profess (24:19-24)?
- 3) What is it about this meal that helps to reveal Jesus to the disciples? What other events in the life of Jesus, especially within the Gospel of Luke, help provide context for this revelatory moment? (Hint - See Luke 9:12-16; 22:14-20)
- 4) Where in your life and faith are you praying for God to give you "eyes to see" what he is doing in your midst or how he is guiding you into the future?

***The disciples were carrying the scars of the past few days, the horrific images of Jesus' death, the guilt of their actions and words. The anxiety and worry of the present. Wandering around in a haze, not knowing what they should do. The fear and uncertainty of their future. Yet, Jesus came and opened their eyes to the gift that was right there in front of them. We pray that He would open our eyes to see the blessings present in our lives today.***