



friendship
community church

Easter Sunday Service

Luke 23-24

April 21-27, 2019

The Big Question this week - What does Easter mean to you?

Luke 23:50 – Luke 24:12 (ESV)

"Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment." "But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened."

God is Faithful – What is one way that you have seen God and His faithfulness in the past week?

"As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.""

Luke 24:36-49 ESV

What does this statement mean to you at this time in your life? God is and was and will be faithful.

Many times, we get lost in the fact that we are unfaithful in our thoughts and actions. We will roll along doing well and then, BOOM! a thought or action will come out of us and we can get lost in the guilt and forget that Christ came to redeem us and to save us from ourselves. He knew that we would be incapable of being faithful on our own, so He is faithful and we need Him!

Discuss these possible reasons that people participate in Easter -

Cultural event - a spectacle, a performance, family gatherings.

The main thought here is that I will participate but "I don't believe that Jesus rose from the dead."

Curiosity event - I find it interesting and I am open to the idea. I am not sure what this is all about but I do find it a little fascinating that people would put their belief in someone raising from the dead. "It's interesting that people think that Jesus rose from the dead."

Confessional event - about 75% when polled self-identify as Christian, however this is down over the last few decades. "I confess that I believe that Jesus rose from the dead." There is no transformation involved here. This is a cognitive decision to believe that Jesus was capable and did raise from the dead. It is just a fact that

Change event - more than just confessional event. I am willing to believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world and have placed my faith and trust in Him.

"Jesus rising from the dead has actually changed you." "I live differently because Jesus rose from the dead."
The biblical term is "set apart" - heaven is now your home and you are an ambassador for heaven.

How faithful are you? How full of faith are you? What do you put your faith in day to day?
Are you putting your faith in everything except God? All of those things will fail. (Family, home, work, looks, talent, etc.)

God's faithfulness is unwavering. For some of us it is hard to believe that God can be totally trustworthy and faithful because we try to base His faithfulness on our faith or lack of. Flip it. Base your faith on His unwavering, always trustworthy faithfulness.

Discuss this statement - Weak faith in a strong object is better than strong faith in a weak object.

So, what is today for you? Cultural, Curiosity, Confessional, Change

Take time to share prayer requests and pray.