

SERMON OUTLINE John 20:1-28

The Resurrection: Reality, Relevance, and Response

THE REALITY OF THE RESURRECTION

Planned Eternally

Promised Constantly

Endured Willingly

Happened Historically

THE RELEVANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection proved that Jesus truly was the Son of God

Living hope and new birth come through the resurrection

The resurrection guarantees that there will be no condemnation for those in Christ

Jesus' resurrection means that death is dead and Christians will rise with Jesus

THE RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTION

Jesus First Followers

Our Response

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

I hope this sermon helps you appreciate both the heaviness and wonder of the resurrection of Jesus and then launches you all out into the world to tell the world this good news. To those ends, we'll consider the reality, relevance, and right response to the resurrection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What was Easter like for you as a child? Which do you still do? What new traditions have you begun as an adult?
3. Does it seem like an overstatement to say that "the fate of all of humanity literally hinges on our response to the resurrection"?
4. Does "glad gravity" seem like an appropriate disposition to have on Easter? If so, what does that look like in your life?
5. Which aspect of the reality of the resurrection seems most important to you (planned eternally, promised consistently, endured willingly, or happened historically)? Why?
6. Had you ever considered why the resurrection matters (what additional benefits it provides beyond the cross)? Which of Pastor Dave's four relevancies most stirs your heart to worship (the resurrection proved that Jesus truly was the Son of God, living hope and new birth come through the resurrection, the resurrection guarantees that there will be no condemnation for those in Christ, and Jesus' resurrection means that death is dead and Christians will rise with Jesus)?
7. What do you make of the disciples' reactions to the empty tomb? Which do you think you'd be most likely to do?
8. What is one way you are responding to the resurrection appropriately? What's one way you'd like to grow in?
9. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

10. Pray for God's help to understand, appreciate, and respond to the resurrection. Pray specific prayers.
11. Read the Bible, looking for specific ways it describes how God means us to respond to the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.
12. Find specific ways to praise God for His mighty power and saving grace displayed and accomplished in the resurrection.
13. Tell someone about the resurrection. Trust God to soften their hearts as you faithfully share the good news and how it has changed your life.
14. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God for being the savior of the world. Praise God for being loving and merciful. Praise God for being the resurrection and the life. Praise God that He is Lord of all. Praise God that He is forgiving and kind.
16. Confess. Confess any ways you are living disproportionately from the reality of the resurrection. Confess any reluctance you have to share this good news with the world. Confess ways you are more excited about worldly things than the resurrection.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for granting your eyes to see and ears to hear the good news of Easter. Thank God for the chance to celebrate the resurrection with your church family. Thank God that the resurrection is good news for those who don't celebrate the resurrection as they should. Thank God for your resurrection to come.
18. Supplication. Pray for the specific people in your life who do not believe. Pray for your own heart to grow in appreciation and transformation in light of the resurrection. Pray for Grace Church to remain faithful to the Word of God.