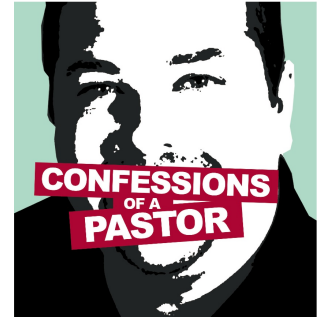




bigIdea



INTRODUCTION

I have served under pastors who have protected their image at all costs. They have tried to portray themselves as *Mr. know-it-all* and *Reverend have-it-all-together*. They guarded the *Pastor Mystique*, trying to make everyone around them feel that they never struggle. But in reality, pastors are just like you—people who are still learning, who have questions, who doubt and who deals with baggage from past and fears of the future.

BIG IDEA: The thing you fear most—death—will never ever happen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As a child, what was your first experience with death? How did you feel?
2. When visiting the grave of a friend, flowers in hand, you find the gravestone missing. What would you conclude?
3. Who visits the tomb? When? Why now? (Luke 23:55-24:1)
4. What do you think the women were thinking and feeling on their way to the tomb? What problems do they expect to confront at the tomb (Matthew 27:60, 65-66)
5. Why do you think that Jesus appeared to these women, even before His own disciples?
6. Should the disciples have been surprised that Jesus said (28:7) He would see them in Galilee (Matthew 26:32)?
7. How would you explain the importance of the resurrection to someone who isn't a Christ Follower?
8. What difference does the resurrection of Jesus, and your own resurrection one day (2 Corinthians 4:14), make in the way you live your life today?

THINK ABOUT IT

It's one thing to believe about something; it's another thing to believe in something. It's one thing to believe about a person; it's another thing to believe in a person. There are a lot of people who believe God is real. So what! Believing in Jesus' death and resurrection is more than just head knowledge.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The only real antidote to the fear that people are facing now is a commitment to Christ. When they make him Lord of their life, they don't have to fear losing anything. He becomes the only person they ultimately have to please. That's the freedom people are looking for this Easter.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me.

John 10:28 (TEV)

VERSES TO GO DEEPER

John 10:28, John 11:25-26, 2 Corinthians 5:8, 2 Corinthians 4:14, Hebrews 2:14-15

