

Easter Sunday

April 1, 2018

Look Again: Everything Hinges on This

:: Matthew 12:38-40

38 Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from you.”

39 He answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

:: Matthew 28:1-4; 11-15

1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money,

13 telling them, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.’

14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.”

15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

:: 1 Corinthians 15:12

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

To follow Jesus he has to be alive. If there is no Jesus alive from the dead there is no Christian faith.

:: 1 Corinthians 15:13-19

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

If there is no resurrection that means...

- 1. Our preaching is in vain (vs. 14)**
- 2. Your faith is useless (vs. 14 & 17)**
- 3. We have lied about God (vs. 15)**
- 4. Your sins aren't forgiven (vs. 17)**
- 5. No one else is going to be resurrected in the future (vs. 18)**

- 1. A hinge has to be anchored to a framework. Our faith in Christ is only valid if the resurrection is true. Everything hinges on the resurrection.**
- 2. The hinge carries the weight of the door. The weight of our sin and the forgiveness God offers to us is only possible if the tomb is empty.**
- 3. A hinge has one degree of freedom. The Christian faith is only possible if the resurrection is true. There are not many ways to believe- everything hinges on this. A hinge on a door allows people in and keeps people out.**

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What is the best April Fool's Day joke you've ever played/had played on you?**
- 2. So many people in our world don't believe in life after death. Was that a difficult concept for you before you became a Christian?**
- 3. Is there any part of the Jesus' resurrection and our future resurrection you still struggle with?**
- 4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 and discuss your thoughts on this passage.**
- 5. How do these verses encourage you in your faith journey?**

6. How might these verses help someone who is skeptical of the resurrection of Jesus and the Christian faith?

Daily Readings:

Monday: John 20:1-10

Tuesday: John 20:11-18

Wednesday: John 20:19-23

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Friday: 1 Corinthians 15:12-23