

Easter 2021 | 4/4/2021

“Presence, Peace, Power”

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## SERMON NOTES:

**Looking at the nature of our Easter Hope, Pastor Tyler raised the following questions:**

- How do we find Easter Hope in a Good Friday Year?
- Where are you currently at when it comes to Easter Hope?
- Do you find yourself longing to believe there is still hope in the world? In our moment?
- Are you currently disillusioned, disoriented, and disempowered?

**He stated that in the midst of our questions and current uncertainties:**

- Our Easter hope is defiant.
- Easter hopes in spite of claims otherwise.
- Easter hope is counter-cultural.
- Easter hope can be disorienting.
- The Easter witnesses courageously arrived at the tomb where their hopes had been put to rest.

**Walking through the resurrection story in the John 20, the following observations were made:**

- Mary Magdalene arrived at the earliest possible time, after a grueling sabbath of waiting.
- She became “Apostle to the Apostles” through the Risen Lord’s appearing to her first.
- She has been historically misunderstood as a prostitute (that’s Mary of Bethany, Lazarus’ sister).
- Her faithfulness as a benefactor to Christ’s ministry, was validated in her continuing to show up.
- This passage is incredibly honest in the messy human details it shares too honest to be made up
  - It doesn’t shy away from what the conspiracies would have been (grave-robbers, stolen?)
  - Pettiness in John’s writing about Peter and competitive performance in the moment.
  - Ways that Mary misconstrued what happened and couldn’t immediately recognize Jesus.
- Jesus garments were found in the tomb in a way that defied the laws of physics, life, and death.
- Jesus had told them (from the scriptures) that He had to die, so that they could truly live.
  - John chose to believe, even if don't fully understand it or death/brokenness around us.
- Jesus cuts thru Mary’s disillusionment, disorientation, and disempowerment/calls her name.

**Quoting the questions of Jesus in the scripture, Tyler raised a few more questions:**

- What are you crying about? What tests your Easter Hope?
- Have you lost the power of the gospel at work within you?
- Are you hiding in your feeling disoriented in this moment?
- Are you doing as Luke 24, and "looking for the living among the dead"...when "He has risen!"
- What makes you want to do like the disciples (v. 10) and "go back to where you're staying."
- Have you forgotten that your Easter Hope? How Jesus brought you back to life?
- Do you realize that Jesus, your hope is right here with you?

**Above all, Tyler stated that this moment is the most important reality of our lives/human history:**

- To find true Easter Hope, we have to know where we put our hope in otherwise
- Everything besides the Risen Lord, cannot give you the life you are looking for
- The Risen Lord is also calling you by name
- The one who gave you life is the only one who can give you eternal life
- The Risen Lord is calling you into the Resurrected Life
- The Resurrected Jesus gives her the greatest purpose of her life, to go where He is going to
- Called not just to receive, but to give resurrected life

**Ultimately, that in our**

- Disillusionment, Jesus gives us Presence.
- Disorientation, Jesus gives us Peace.
- Disempowerment, Jesus gives us Power/Purpose.

**J.I. Packer via Timothy Keller writes about Easter:**

*"The difference between knowing Christ and knowing the power of his resurrection, is the difference between knowing a person and resembling a person. It is not about relationship but about supernatural character growth. When Paul says, "I want to know him," it means, "I want to be with him" but when he says, "I want to know the power of his resurrection," it means, "I want to be just like him," like Jesus. Look at the deadness in your life. Look at the anger. How is that going to be turned into forgiveness? Look at the insecurity. How is that going to be turned into confidence? Look at the self-centeredness. How is that going to be turned into compassion and generosity? How? The answer is that the dead stuff gets taken over by the Spirit of the Risen God. The minute you decide to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, the power of the Holy Spirit comes into your life. It's the power Easter. The Power of the resurrection—the same thing that raised Jesus from the dead."*

**Put Your Faith in Jesus Today. Live and Share His Resurrected Life.**

## Supplemental Study: “Going Deeper”

Read **1 Corinthians 15:1-58**. Look closely at the importance Paul emphasizes on everything rising and falling on the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus. How Christ’s overcoming death is most central to our Christianity. Without it, we are foolish and everything else is in vain. Ask yourself if you are living as a “Christian atheist” (Groeschel) when it comes to the resurrection. Is this power theoretical and just an idea to you? Or do you want to know the “power of His resurrection and sharing in his suffering” as the guiding and most powerful force in your life (Paul in **Philippians 3:10**)? What would it take for you to live more boldly and powerfully as a resurrected person in the hope of the Risen Lord?

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS (Small Group & Personal):

#### WARM-UP: “Together” *(use one or none)*

1. Did you have any memorable Easter traditions growing up or now?
2. If you could do anything for spring break what would you do?

#### WORD: “Truth”

*Leader: Questions below should allow for quick responses, evident by close reading of the text. Choose to use some or all of them (pending pace), as reading of the passage(s) will answer them as well.*

- **Sermon Recap:** Pastor Tyler looked at the resurrection story in the Gospel of John. How the “apostle to the apostles” Mary Magdalene, and the apostles John and Peter reacted to the discovery of the Risen Lord. How Jesus reveals himself to them. That Jesus gives “presence” to their disillusionment. That Jesus gives “peace” to their “disorientation.” That Jesus gives “purpose & power” to their “disempowerment.” In this all, we must look in the mirror and consider if we are living in and through our Easter Hope, and the “power of the resurrection of Christ that is at work within us.” He invited those who haven’t put their faith in Christ to give him their life. He also invited those who have the Spirit within them, to live as if it is true and to share their Easter hope.
- **Read the following together as a group:**
  - a. Read John 20:1-23

Introduce or refresh SOAP to your group, then read the text and lead them through.

**S- Scripture:** Read the text

**O- Observations:** What stood out, what makes you curious, what questions do you have

**A- Application:** How does it or a part of this scripture speak to your life? What are the implications? Where do I relate? Where do I find myself? What is convicting?

**P- Prayer:** Pray the text in your own words, pray about what resonated with you, pray regarding your application...

**APPLICATION: “Life”:** (use the below question(s) or what comes from reflection on readings)

1. What areas of your life are in agreement with what Jesus did when He rose from the dead and what areas of your life are not yet in agreement?
2. What challenge or invitation to action did you hear from the sermon or text?

**PRAYER “Truth”** (options of how to pray in your group)

1. Ask God to help align the areas of your life into living in light of the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Any other specific prayer requests? How can we support you forming “atomic habits?”

**COMMUNION “Together”**

Lead your group in communion in a way that feels right.

- If needed, 1 Corinthians 11:23-27
  - **23** ...that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS at ASC:**

**1. In-Person Weekly Services begin on May 9th.**

- Let us know your plans and perspective by completing our survey [HERE](#)
- Let us know how you want to help serve via [info@aseattlechurch.com](mailto:info@aseattlechurch.com)
- 1st In-Person Gathering on May 9th

2. Special Guest Teacher: Rev. Dr. AJ Swoboda on “Doubt and Deconstruction” this coming Sunday, April 11th

3. Register for and join our [“How to Question Your Faith without Losing it” with Rev. Dr. AJ Swoboda](#) | Young Adult Social | April 12th @ 6:30PM (Online):

**4. All-Church Prayer Calls:**

- a. Wednesday's from 1230-1pm each week. 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#

b. Friday Mornings from 6:30am-7am 1-253-215-8782, 86546382360#

5. **Serve!** If you are interested in helping at church, we have several opportunities for you:
  - a. **Hospitality:** Help serve our production team when they record on Sundays
  - b. **Kids Ministry:** Help with serving our kids starting this Easter Sunday
  - c. **Media:** Are you a photographer, a writer, editor or graphic designer, sound engineer, we have an opportunity for you to volunteer your gifts and talents. Email [info@aseattlechurch.com](mailto:info@aseattlechurch.com) and Amanda will connect you with the right ministry leader.
6. **Share testimony** of how God is moving in your life/your group in this season? **HERE**
7. How can we **come alongside you** in more specific ways as a church? **Let us know.**