

After Easter

Living in Alignment with the Resurrection

Opening Prayer & Introduction: Much of the emphasis of the global church over the past several weeks has centered on the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, holy week, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. With so much attention given to the Easter season, a person might ask, what is next...what do I do now to live out the resurrection of Christ Jesus? In this message, Pastor JP taught us about how to live in alignment with the gospel, which is our post-easter focus. Open your group time with a prayer that asks the Lord to speak to you as you grow and discuss these important themes.

Key Scripture:

"I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:13

Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas of your life are you tempted toward self-righteousness rather than resting in Christ's finished work, and how can you shift your focus from what you have done to what Christ has accomplished?
2. The sermon mentioned that fear of what others think can cause us to forfeit our freedoms in Christ. When have you experienced this, and how did it affect your witness?
3. What would it look like for you to truly die to self-preservation in your relationships, finances, or time, trusting that resurrection life awaits on the other side?
4. When have you, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, accused Jesus of being a stranger to your circumstances, and what helped you recognize His presence?
5. In what ways might you be living as though death still has power over you, and how can you practically embrace the freedom that comes from Christ's victory over death?
6. The sermon emphasizes that we need community to experience the risen Christ. What barriers prevent you from fully engaging in Christian fellowship, and how can you overcome them?

Practical Applications (Choose Two):

1. Identify one area where fear has kept you from advancing God's kingdom. Write down one specific step you'll take this week to move forward in faith.
2. Journal your salvation story focusing on what God did (not what you did). Share it with one person this week.
3. Examine your calendar and create space for "breaking bread" with other believers—either through a small group, coffee with a Christian friend, or serving together.

4. [] Bring your disappointment to Jesus in prayer. Read through a Gospel account of Jesus' suffering (Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, or John 18-19) to remember He is no stranger to pain.
5. [] Practice sacrificial giving or forgiveness in one specific way this week—choosing kingdom advancement over self-preservation.

Key Takeaways:

- Fear keeps us from living as if Jesus has truly risen - It keeps us still, self-righteous, and enslaved to self-preservation
- Disappointment can cause us to retreat from Christ rather than press into Him
- Christ's presence through the Holy Spirit gives us confidence to advance (not just maintain) God's kingdom
- Community and breaking bread together is essential for experiencing the risen Christ
- We are called to align our lives with the reality that everything has changed because Jesus defeated death

Closing Prayer: Pray that God would help you to live in alignment with the gospel, allowing the message of the Lord's resurrection to truly speak into your daily living. Pause as a group and ask the Lord for practical help to live out the Christian life.