



April 4&5, 2015

Easter...Nonsense

John 20:1-8

Introduction

On the third day after Jesus died, He rose from the dead. This was verified by his disciples and many eyewitnesses. This reality changed the disciples from frightened deserters to dynamic leaders in the new church. This is the foundation of the Christian faith. We can be changed as the disciples were and have confidence that our bodies will one day be raised to live with Christ forever. The same power that raised Christ to life can give us the ability to follow Christ each day.

Questions

1. Why is Jesus' resurrection the key to the Christian faith? What do you believe to be true about Jesus and why do you believe Jesus is real? What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you personally?
2. The resurrection of Christ is the center of the gospel message. Read I Corinthians 15:12-19. What are the reasons for some not to believe in the resurrection of Christ? Why do some believe, but not experience an active faith in Christ?
3. Jesus told his followers a number of times that he would die and come forth from the tomb. Why was it difficult for them to believe this? Why do you think Jesus' followers scattered during his Crucifixion? Why weren't they "counting down" in front of the tomb ready to celebrate his resurrection?
4. Pastor David described the Cross as motivation and the Resurrection as transformation. What did he mean by that? Is this similar to or different from the way you view these events?
5. Review John 20:1-9. How would you have reacted at the empty tomb? Would you have been more like Mary, who thought the body had been taken, or John, who "saw and believed"? Can a committed believer have doubts?
6. What difference does it make in our lives if we believe in Jesus; instead of just know about Him? What best describes your faith journey decision; Curious, Convinced, Committed, or Contagious?

Conclusion

Because Christ rose from the dead as he promised, we know that what he said is true—he is God. Because he rose, we have certainty that our sins are forgiven. Because he rose, he lives and represents us to God. Because he rose and defeated death, we know we will also be raised.