

April 14, 2020

Dear Sunday School Class,

He is risen!! What a wonderful proclamation. If nothing else excites us about our faith, it should be that Jesus died and rose from the dead, thereby guaranteeing our resurrection if we place our faith in Him. What a Savior!

Sunday morning we talked about the resurrection, and how Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb in the dark on Sunday morning. They had to wait until their Sabbath was over at sundown on Saturday, so they hurried to the tomb in the dark, taking spices to embalm Jesus' body. He had been hurriedly placed in the tomb without proper burial preparation according to Jewish tradition, because it was the Sabbath on Friday evening when He died. The women discovered the stone rolled away from the mouth of the cave, or tomb, where they had placed Jesus' body, and so they looked into the tomb and saw that His body was not there, but the grave clothes were carefully rolled up. The Scripture says they ran, no doubt as fast as they could, to tell the disciples that Jesus' body had been removed, probably stolen. So Peter and John took off running to the tomb, and also discovered that Jesus' body was gone. They were all freaked out, wondering who had taken His body, yet another cause for their great fear. At this point in time they had no idea that He had risen from the dead. It wasn't until later when He appeared to them where they were gathered, no doubt strategizing and consoling one another that their dream of being part of the Messiah's rule and reign was now gone. They had to be devastated. And then there He was in their midst, not knocking on the door, or opening the door and walking in, but just "appearing." Wow! Thomas wasn't there and doubted what the other disciples told Him of Jesus appearing to them, so eight days later Jesus appeared to them again where they were gathered, and showed Thomas His hands and feet, and side which had obviously been wounded, and Thomas believed. We talked about the shock of realizing that He wasn't dead, but had risen from the dead, and how we would have reacted had we been part of that group. It is doubtful that any of us would have realized what had really happened, and we would have been just as upset. Jesus would have had to tell us, just as He told the disciples, that He had risen; reminding us of His Word foretelling it all.

For the rest of the class we talked about "faith" and what it means to each of us. We all used words like "hope" "secure" "future" "daily" which define how we live by our faith. It is our faith that makes us so radically different from the non-Christian. They put their hope in earthly things like finances, jobs, relationships, and other non-eternal entities. It can become a trap for us as Christians to put our faith in those things as well. We must constantly remind ourselves that the basis of our life must be our faith in Jesus, not our possessions or circumstances. Jesus is our hope and our security, no matter what our earthly life hands us. The Bible talks about our struggles being associated with the world, and gives us encouragement to cling to Jesus and His promises. If we aren't reading our Bible, praying and fellowshiping with other Christians we become weak, and are an easy target for the world, the flesh, and the devil.

In conclusion, what a victory Easter represents for each one of us! We should think about it constantly, not just once a year. We have been assured eternity in Heaven because Jesus conquered death and the grave.

See you on Sunday morning! I have ordered a Max Lucado study to finish out our year, so it should be great to conclude Sunday School at the end of May with wisdom from Max Lucado, as he takes us through God's word.

Blessings,

Judy & Stephen