

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 03/31/2013

Resurrection Reasons...

Focus: to show us God's character and good purposes for us in the resurrection of Jesus and to call us to walk in those in faith.

Note: because of the "listy" nature of this sermon, there is no central text to discuss. I would suggest you read one or more of the resurrection accounts (e.g. Matt. 28.1-10) and Romans 8.18-38 or 1 Cor. 15 (the whole chapter) and have people note insights into who God is and what His purposes are for us in the resurrection of Christ.

The top 10 lists and accompanying verses from the sermon is below.

Another option would be to read Matt. 28.1-10 and then just have people share their "2 points" from the Sunday morning sermon.

Here are some prompting questions to go along with that:

- *What does the resurrection reveal to you about the character of God?*

- *What does it reveal to you about his plans/will for us as His people?*

- *How is your belief in the resurrection of Jesus supposed to affect you? What makes that a struggle?*

- *How can you meditate on the resurrection more powerfully so that it has a greater effect on you?*

Resurrection Reasons...

10 THINGS WE LEARN ABOUT GOD FROM THE RESURRECTION...

1. He has power over death...

Acts 2.22-24 22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Rom. 6.9 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

2. He Keeps His promises...

Luke 24.44-47 44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

3. He has power over sickness...

Acts 4.10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.

Rev. 21.4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

4. He cares about this broken world...

Rom. 8.12-22 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

Rev. 22.3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.

5. He cares about our suffering...

Rom. 8.18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Rev. 7.17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

6. He wants to be forgive us...

Acts 13.36-38 36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

1 Cor. 15.17 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

7. He wants to be with us...

Rom. 8.23-24 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Matt. 28.18-20 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

8. He is supreme...

1 Cor. 15.22-26 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Phil. 2.9, 10 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

9. He is very, very kind...

Eph. 2.4-7 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

10. He will judge justly...

Acts 17.30-31 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

10 PURPOSES OF GOD FOR US IN THE RESURRECTION

1. to give us hope in the hardest of times...

1 Thess. 4.13-14 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

2. to make our own resurrection sure...

Rom. 8.11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

3. to rescue us from condemnation...

Rom. 8.34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

4. to give us access to God...

Heb. 7.22-25 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. 23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. 25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

5. to set us free from the fear of death...

Luke 20.36 for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

6. to set us free from selfish living...

1 Cor. 15.32b If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

7. to change our desires...

Col. 3.1, 2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

8. to give us purpose...

2 Cor. 5.15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

9. to rescue us from wrath...

1 Thess. 1.9-10 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

10. to be with us...

Matt. 28.20b And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”