

Sermon for Easter, April 5, 2015

Text: Luke 24:1-12

Theme: "Hour of Resurrection"

Intro: Father and his two sons traveling in the car on a summer day. Windows are down when suddenly a bee flies into the car. One of the two brothers instantly began to panic. For him a bee was a real and potential problem because if he were stung he could go into shock and die. The other brother stayed calm. He quickly trapped the bee and held him for a few moments between his hands. Then he let him go. The bee began to fly around the car once again. But the older son told his younger brother, relax. It's OK, the bee can't hurt you.

I. **Time to accept the evidence**

A. He is NOT here

1. In a court case the jury has to look at the evidence; There can be no guessing
2. What does the evidence say? Well, just as a detective must do, or just as a jury must do when presented with evidence, we need to look at the evidence in its context. In other words, Look at the empty tomb, look at where Jesus' lay. All you see is burial cloths and the head covering. All of that evidence proves Jesus is not here. Why would that lead us to say Jesus' body had been stolen? But that is what some of the women thought. That is the lie that has actually been perpetrated among a large majority of unbelievers.
3. But what does the evidence say in its context? Remember how Jesus spoke of his death. HE PREDICTED IT!! Not because he was negative, but because HE was going to give up his life.

B. Angels are on hand to call attention to the evidence

1. Sometimes either the prosecution of the defense will try to make its case stronger by calling expert witnesses. They can sometimes enhance the evidence or interpret parts of the evidence so the jury can make a decision based on evidence they could not know about without an expert interpreting it.
2. So God also called in his expert witnesses on that Easter morning. Two angels were there when women arrived.
3. How God understands our bewilderment and how easily our sinful minds are distracted and often think the worst. So the women also needed expert testimony to help them understand what had happened.

Transition: So we have clear, eyewitness evidence; we have expert testimony, all of which would already tell us what we need to believe. But God gives us MORE. He give us his truth.

II. **Time to believe God's truth**--people often want to deny God's truth because they see death and interpret it only in the context of God's judgment and not in the context of his grace.

A. The truth of his power

1. We believe in the truth of the power of the atomic bomb that struck Hiroshima, Japan. Why do we believe in that power? BECAUSE we see the evidence. BUT those are only pictures, yet we believe the evidence because, we say, you can't fake a picture like that.

2. Yet we have the truth of God's power over death by looking at an empty tomb.

B. The truth of his Words--He told his disciples, when he rises from the grave he will go ahead of you into Galilee. That does not mean he would not appear to them at other times before and after that, but the meeting in Galilee was to be very important. Jesus does not tell lies. He does what he says he will do. The angels to the women to remind the disciples of all that Jesus said.

C. The truth that Jesus IS God

1. And friends, we also need to look at another truth, here that is staring us in the face.

2. Jesus could not say do the things that he did here, he could not say that he would meet his disciples

Application: But, Oh how often we forget God's truth, just like those two Emmaus disciples, because of our emotions. We see the horror of death, we see the lifeless body of a friend or relative and our sadness overwhelms us with sorrow and tears.

III. Time to tell others the blessed truths of Easter

A. Because we know there is no longer a need to be afraid, of trial or trouble, or even of death itself

B. Because others need to have the comfort of God's truth in his power as God and in the truth he has spoken to us.

C. Imagine the sorrow that the truth of Easter can turn into joy when you tell someone else. Imagine the fear that can be turned into boldness by the truth of Easter. And friend, don't YOU be afraid to tell someone else, just because they might not like you or they might think you are old fashioned, or you think they just won't believe.

I have been sharing some things with our members in some of my visits. We do not make believers of people. In fact, sometimes people won't believe when we tell them about the power of Christ and his resurrection. BUT we can plant the seed of God's Word. In fact, the planters are just as important as the harvesters, because without the planters there IS NO harvest.

IV. Application:

Conclusion: