

# Resurrection and Response

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 15, 2015; Steve Thiel

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The Christian faith stands and falls on the reality of resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For starters, Jesus said that He would rise from the dead on the third day. Without the resurrection, He is a liar and the truth is not in Him. Also, the entire Old Testament points forward to a future resurrection. A great example of this is Abraham offering Isaac up on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22, Hebrews 11:17-19). Lastly, the resurrection is critical to the Christian faith because it provides certainty to believers that we too will rise from the dead and experience the joy of eternal life.

## **I. Resurrection Reality – Read John 20:1-11 and answer the following questions.**

- A. As you look back at John 19, what critical facts are in place to set up the resurrection?
- B. How does Mary Magdalene interpret the stone being removed? What does she think happened?
- C. What additional information are we given when Peter and John arrive and assess the situation?
- D. What is the significance of women being first to the tomb and yet two men confirming the facts?

## **II. Resurrection Response – Read John 20:12-29 and answer the following questions**

- A. What stands out to you about Mary's interaction with the risen Jesus and her response to Him?
- B. Where were the disciples Sunday night and how did Jesus convince them that He had risen?
- C. What commission did Jesus give the disciples (v.21)? What do you think that looks like?
- D. How do you interpret the disciples' authority to forgive sins and to withhold forgiveness (v.23)?
- E. How would you describe Jesus' interaction with Thomas? How does Thomas respond (v.28)?

## **III. Resurrection Reward – Read John 20:30-31 and answer the following questions**

- A. What promise is made in verse 31? What's the significance of that promise in this context?
- B. In what areas of the Christian faith do you find yourself doubting like Thomas?
- C. Jesus commissions us in the same way He commissioned the first disciples (John 20:21). How would you like to personally grow in carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?