

Easter 2018

The Life and Freedom of Easter

John 11

Skeptics – permission not to believe (like some did at end of story) OPEN TO HEARING IS FIRST STEP TO BELIEVING

- Ethical and social issues – did He rise from the dead? If so, He deserves a hearing
- You want this to be true – infinite rationale for service and love
 - Not just spiritual – literal resurrection – God will not tolerate this for long

Jesus enters

- Into what?
 - He enters into our mess, pain, hurt, heartache, grief, brokenness
 - He enters into the places we don't want to go ourselves (cemetery)
 - He is not a god who is disconnected or distant – He enters in (lidocaine – neither indifferent nor unaware)
- Why?
 - Because of His love He has for people
 - He doesn't love us as we think we are or pretend to be but as we actually are
 - He is big enough to take our questions and doubts along with griefs and pain
 - Piling on isn't His plan / Lightning Bolts / White Glove test – He is drawn to our brokenness (Psalm 51.17)
 - He is willing to cut through all of that to deal with our deepest need to the glory of God

Jesus offers

- Life
 - Lazarus' deepest need at that point wasn't perfuming or a eulogy
 - Mild external changes or nice words that may or may not be true spoken about you don't meet the deepest need HAWKEYE – S3e5 MASH “Most fantastic thing I ever saw”
- Freedom
 - Freedom from the things that keep us bound to our old way of life
 - Sins – bondage – addiction – hurt – anger
 - Self-improvement? No. Transformation!

How dare He offer something like this?

- He has been there – He entered the grave and returned victoriously
- He offers forgiveness for our sin
- He offers freedom from our sin
- He offers eternal life

Questions for Discussion

1. What is your favorite Easter memory? What is your favorite Easter tradition?
2. In the sermon, we argued that part of the Easter message is that Jesus is able and willing to enter into our mess, pain, heartache, and brokenness. How have you seen that true in your own life? In those around you? What was the outcome of it?
3. Part of Jesus' interaction in John 11 is taking the doubt and struggle of those who thought He should've acted differently (i.e. "If you had been here..."). What is your biggest question toward God right now? How are you interacting with Him about it? What kind of impact has it had on your relationship with Him?
4. The primary need for Lazarus was life. Read Ephesians 2.1-10. How does this passage describe our salvation? What parallels do you see? What does it say about God's motivation in action? About the outcome of His action?
5. If you had 90 seconds to explain the Gospel to someone, what would you say?