

Easter Sunday ~Sunday, April 16, 2017

“The Risen Jesus: Our Living Hope”

John 20:1-18

“Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here! He is risen from the dead!” (Mark 16:6)

The events of that first Easter—the resurrection of Jesus—form the _____ of our faith.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Peter 1:3)

At the very heart of Christianity—at the core of our faith—is _____.

“And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins... And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.” (1 Corinthians 15:17)

FALSE THINGS WE CAN PLACE OUR HOPE IN

If we place our hope in these things we will be terribly _____. True hope can only be found in _____.

“Let your unflinching love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.” (Psalm 33:22)

Hope = *elpis* = “to hope; to anticipate with pleasure; to welcome; trust; _____; and expectation of what is _____ and _____.”

“Hope is the unshakable certainty in the promises of God, based on Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.”

This is what we celebrate this morning—the _____ hope that we have through the life-changing _____ of Jesus’ resurrection.

God’s love is a love that seeks us even in the _____. It is a love that reaches into our everyday _____—no matter what that reality is—and lifts us from the pit of despair, onto _____ ground.

“He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God.” (Psalm 40:2)

THE LIVING HOPE OF THE RISEN JESUS

#1. Mary discovered the living hope that overcomes our _____.

We all know how the things of the _____ can oppress, control, and destroy—things like _____, failed relationships, broken dreams, bad decisions, lost _____.

We all know something about the _____ the past can have over us—and the guilt, _____, and _____ that can tie us down, steal our hope, and keep us from becoming all that we were created to be.

Our lives _____ would be dramatically different if we viewed ourselves in light of how _____ sees us, instead of other people.

God loves us with an _____ love; He uniquely _____ us; knows everything about us—and He is the only one who can tell us who we _____ are. Mary was _____ by this truth.

The tragedy is, many people are unable to get past these things—and feel as if they’re living their lives in the _____. They can’t enjoy the present or get on with the future, because they’re stuck in the _____.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgiven and everything is new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The living hope of Jesus is that we don’t have to be _____ by our past or forever tied to our _____.

Is there anything from your past that you are struggling with?

#2. Mary discovered the living hope that we are not _____.

No matter how _____ and intentional we are, life can sometimes get _____.

Whether it’s relationships, finances, work, volunteer commitments, ministry; or our physical and emotional health—we can all feel out of _____ at times.

Despite what we might think, so much of life is beyond our power and _____.

And lack of control can lead to _____, _____, and depression.

We can't control everything; but the good news is, _____! We might be powerless, but God isn't.

“How incredibly great is His power to help those who believe in him, the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.” (Ephesians 1:20)

The same _____ that raised Jesus from the dead is _____ to us—to raise us above the _____ of everyday living.

All we can do is live in the _____—one day at a time—one moment at a time.

The Good News of Easter is that we're not _____. God is with us and promises to give us the _____ to face whatever comes our way.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

“I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. In just a little while the world will not see me again, but you will. For I will live again, and you will, too. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you...All those who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and live with them.” (John 14:18)

The living hope of Jesus is that we never have to feel _____. He is with us always.

What challenges are you facing in your life today?

With God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:27)

#3. Mary discovered the living hope that our _____ is _____.

“The days of our life are seventy years or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10)

In the face of death, the world has little more to offer than _____ and empty _____.

Telling someone to be optimistic without any reason, is useless and _____. There has to be a _____ to be optimistic.

Because Jesus is alive—we're invited to share in His risen life—a life that's full of _____ and _____. A life that goes on _____.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

Scripture describes heaven as a _____ place—a place of perfect _____; perfect _____; and perfect _____ in God's presence.

2 WAYS TO GET INTO HEAVEN

Plan A: _____ Way

Salvation by _____

Salvation by _____

Salvation by _____

Salvation by _____

Salvation by _____

Salvation by _____

Plan B: _____ Way

Jesus took our _____ and all we have to do is _____ in Him.

Because of Jesus' _____ work on the Cross—because of the resurrection—we don't have to worry that some detail of our salvation has been _____, some important deed left _____; some necessary duty _____—all we have to do is _____.

This is the way to have eternal life—by knowing you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” (John 17:3)

The living hope of Jesus is that we don't _____ as people without hope; and we don't have to be _____ of the future.

How do you feel about death? Do you face eternity with hope or fear?



This is the reality and promise of Jesus' resurrection—that anyone who “sees the Lord”—anyone who encounters Him and receives Him can be changed and transformed—that's what Easter is all about!