

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/21/19

Text: Luke 24:1-12

Title: The Hope of Easter

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim walked us through Luke's gospel account of the empty tomb. As the women came to anoint and embalm Jesus' body, they were obviously expecting Him to still be dead, and were astonished to find an empty tomb. The angel of the Lord reminded them that Jesus had told them He would die and then rise again in 3 days. And yet, they had forgotten His promise and the hope that came with it. As Tim said, like Mary and the disciples, we are offered an amazing, universal hope in the Gospel of eternity with God and provision beyond our imagination. And yet we, like the disciples, don't have categories to understand God's promises, so we exchange His hope for lesser "hopes". Trying to fill our lives with meaning, and purpose, we all must eventually face the realities of death and brokenness that the things of this world can not overcome. The Amazing promise of the gospel is that, in exchange for our lesser hopes of purpose, love, meaning, belonging...etc., Jesus offers us an eternal hope, and a promise that surpasses all others, because He not only died as a payment for sin, but He also rose again, defeating death, and He providing true life for us.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said that whatever we find hope in has elements of being "Positive", "Future", and "Motivating."*
 - **Positive: What things do you hope for to "get better" or "be better"?**
 - **Future: What are you hoping the future to bring that you don't have now?**
 - **Motivating: What do your "hopes" motivate you to do in your daily life?**
2. *Tim said, in our brokenness, we don't have categories for Jesus' promises of eternal life and joy, so we settle for lesser hopes and are "too easily pleased". We live like "Here", "This life" is all that matters and all we really have. We satisfy our good/eternal longings with temporary, earthly hopes.*
 - **What do the things you hope for reveal about your deeper longings? (\$=security, comfort; Relationship=love, acceptance, self-worth...etc.)**
 - **In what ways has God promised to provide for each of those deeper longings?**
3. *We have a better hope and promise because Jesus has both removed the dividing wall between us and God to receive His presence and blessing, and has defeated death, to offer an eternal promise of living with Him forever.*
 - **How does perfect access to God and eternity with Him change everything?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty as the Lord and Giver of life! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is victorious over all opponents, especially sin, death and hell!*
- 2. How have you lived perplexed and afraid because of death's power? Confess your helplessness to Jesus, asking Him to save you and forgive you – working power out of weakness, life out of death.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He has proven His power and trustworthiness. Thank Him for opening up access to God by His death, and for opening up eternity by His resurrection!*
- 4. Who do you know that is shaken by the real power of death? Pray for them, asking the Lord to make Himself known to them in His resurrection power – and that He would give them hope as only He can.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of joy, especially in light of Jesus' resurrection! Pray for such a confidence in His power and trustworthiness that you would joyfully bear witness to others of His story.*