

Sermon Title: The Risen Way

Sermon Text: Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Small Group Reminders: Be sure to review announcements and links @ NWC.FYI

Pre-Discussion Questions:

*When you met last week, you should have shared with your group at least one action step you would take. **How did you do?***

Icebreaker Questions:

- Think about some of the most notable events in history, even in your lifetime and discuss the impact and ramifications it had on your life or in the whole world.

Read this week's **Sermon in a Sentence:** *No matter the trials or struggles we face, even in moments of doubt, we must never forget the many promises of Christ, continuing to walk in The Risen Way.*

Discussion Questions:

1. **REVIEW:** If needed, briefly run through the summary of Sunday's message. (See other side.)
 1. What did God teach you through the message this weekend? Any personal insights coming out of Sunday's message?
2. **DISCUSS**
 1. Thinking about your answers to the pre-discussion question, now talk about how the Resurrection is the most important event in all of history, how it had radical implications, how it affected the time immediately afterward and right up until today, even in your own life personally.
 2. When we face our own difficult circumstances, what tendencies do we have in how we deal with it? Do we seek the living among the dead? Are we expecting the same outcomes as the rest of the world?
 3. What can we learn from the lesson about "remembering his words?" Discuss how His words are always more true than whatever facts we have before us.
 4. Rodney asked, "Has your belief become a way of life?" Discuss how believing is more than just agreeing with facts.
3. **PRACTICE:**
 - **Remember His Words.**
 - Consider a difficulty you're facing and identify it with a one word description. (Ex. fear, worry, sadness, etc.) Take a few moments to search the Scriptures using an internet search engine. (Ex. Type "scriptures about fear") Share with your group one or two verses that stand out to you.

Application/Reflection

- Write down the sermon in a sentence.
- Write down and share with the group at least one action step you'll take this week, especially as it relates to "remembering His words" and how "our belief should become a way of life."
- Write down one person's name from your group (Make sure each person has at least one person, not in the same household), and one thing you could pray for and be intentional throughout the week to pray for them.

The Risen Way

“He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!”

• The Story

- Mary and the other ladies are going about “business as usual,” returning to the tomb with spices for burial, doing what they would do when a loved one passed away.
- The “sharp dressed men” met them to remind them of the words of Jesus.
 - “Why are seeking the living among the dead?”
 - We too are sometimes guilty of looking for life in all the wrong places—looking for answers in all the wrong place instead of looking to the one that has all the answers.
 - “Remember how He spoke to you..”
 - They remembered his words! Even more than just the words about his resurrection - perhaps they even began remembering all the incredible things he had said and promised.
- The women run to tell the disciples of what they’ve seen.
 - The words seemed like nonsense to them. They did not believe. They were still mired in the awful facts of the past weekend.
 - We too are often mired in our own facts that seem to point to despair.
- Peter and John run to the tomb. When they see the evidence for themselves, their belief and faith begins to build.
 - Our challenge is to look at a new set of facts determined by the God of the Resurrection!
- Once Peter and John head back to tell what they’ve seen, Mary is left behind and encounters Jesus, who she thinks is just a gardener at first until she hears him call her name...“Mary.”
 - Hearing him call our name makes all the difference!

• Three Quick Lessons from this Easter Story

• Remember His Reassuring Words.

- Regardless of what you’re facing, the facts you have before you, reflect on the many promises of God in his word.

• Believe in His Resurrection Power.

- Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
- “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

• Walk in His Risen Way!

- Do you just believe in an incredible event that happened long ago, or are you experiencing the power of the resurrection in your everyday life?
- ***Has your belief become a way of life?***
- “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
 - He’s not just the resurrected, that’s a powerful thing in and of itself. But he IS the resurrection. He’s not just the one who has been raised to life - He’s the one who does the raising! He IS the resurrection.
- If you are a follower of Christ, then that same resurrection power didn’t just raise Jesus from the dead 2000 years ago - it resides within you today!
 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:11 CSB

• What Jesus meant when he used the word “BELIEVE.”

- It includes a measure of confidence in the facts, but it also calls for action.
- You believe in a way that affects your behavior.
- He’s not JUST asking you to believe that He was an actual person that lived and died and was resurrected some 2,000 years ago. That’s the evidence that He’s the Son of God, so it is a first step. But it’s also even more of *an invitation to believe His message and His teachings and His way of life to the point where you trust Him to lead your life - altering your behavior as you go along.*
- When Jesus says, “Believe in me,” He also means, “Come Follow Me.” Walk with me, work with me, watch how I do it.
- Believing in the facts alone won’t do you much good. But believing in a way that surrenders your old way of walking through life to His way of walking through life, that’s more the point.

*No matter the trials or struggles we face, even in moments of doubt,
we must never forget the many promises of Christ,
continuing to walk in The Risen Way.*