

Resurrection Encounters & Significance

Discussion Questions

The resurrection means my sin can be forgiven (Luke 23:39-43).

1. In v.41 the thief correctly recognizes that the two criminals belong there on the cross, but Jesus doesn't. Why is it significant that Jesus is crucified among criminals?
2. How does v.43 indicate that Jesus is dying for the criminal?
3. What is the significance for Jesus and for the criminal that he will be with Jesus in paradise?
4. What does the criminal mean when he makes his request to Jesus in v.41? What does this request indicate that the criminal believed about Jesus?
5. It was mentioned in the sermon that we must identify with the thief on the cross. However, this is often difficult because we think of ourselves as moral and religious and not in need. Has this ever been difficult for you? Have you known others for whom this was difficult?
6. Are there any other lessons or truths we can learn from this encounter?

The resurrection means I have new purpose in life (Acts 9:1-19).

7. In vv.1-2 we see Saul's opposition to Christians. Why was he so passionate in his opposition?
8. In vv.3-6 Saul has an encounter with Christ that changes everything for him. Explain why this encounter would change everything for him?
9. In vv.15-16, we learn God has big plans for Saul. Why would God use someone like this for this very important role? What should we learn from this?
10. In the sermon, it was mentioned that some people live their lives in order to retire and collect sea shells or to check off a bucket list. Are these things wrong? Why/How does the resurrection give us a deeper and more meaningful reason to live?
11. What should our lives look like when we come to the same realization Paul did that the resurrection of Jesus changes everything? Are there areas of your life that should change because of Jesus' resurrection? Explain.

The resurrection mean I have hope for the future (Acts 7:54-60).

12. Acts 7:54 says the religious leadership was enraged at Stephen. Why?
13. Even in his death, Stephen prays for those who are killing him. Why does he do this? What do we learn about how we should respond to our "enemies?"
14. In vv.55-56, Stephen looks up and sees Jesus standing at God's right hand. Why is this significant? What does this mean? Why would this give Stephen confidence in his death?
15. Seeing the resurrected Christ also means Jesus will return. Why?
16. It was mentioned that we will all die. The key question is not when or how. The key question is: will we be prepared when it is our time. Do you think you can face death with the same confidence as Stephen?