



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for April 28, 2024

Sermon Title: With Curious Angels

Sermon Series: ...Now What?

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/concept The Resurrection changes how we read Scripture, how we hear and trust God's promises. Peter tells us that before that first Easter, the Prophets wanted to know HOW God would redeem us, but were not told. So, a great deal of what they said and wrote was not only for their time but for us. What a privilege to have our Bible and to have faith and life that comes from God's Story and the open tomb!

Icebreaker (for groups)

Think about a time in your life when you were curious about something you couldn't figure out. Share your story.

Reflections on the Sermon

What were your take aways from Brian's sermon?

Scripture

I Peter 1:8-12 (NIV)

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told

you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

John 20: 30-31 (NIV)

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Reviewing the Scripture

1. Peter is writing to encourage persecuted Christians in what is now Turkey. According to verse 8, had these people known Jesus when he walked on earth? Despite this, how did they feel about Jesus?

What was the outcome of these feelings?

2. According to verse 9 what was the end result of their faith in Jesus?
3. In verses 10 and 11 what were the prophets searching for?
4. Who predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glory that was to follow? (verse 11)
5. What was revealed to the prophets in verse 12?
6. Who shares the curiosity of the prophets? Does this information lead you to a conclusion? If so, what?
7. What do we learn in John 20:30?
8. According to John 20:31 what was John's twofold purpose in writing the Book of John?

Going Deeper

1. What do you think motivated the prophets when they searched to find the time and circumstances to which the spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow?

2. In First Peter 1:12 who did the revealing to the prophets? What can we learn about God and His purposes from this verse?
3. What curiosity do you have about future events, including Jesus' return? What is your motivation for your curiosity?
4. Since John was a disciple of Jesus, why do you think John didn't record ALL of the signs that Jesus performed in the presence of his disciples? See also John 21:25. Do you think John is exaggerating in John 21:25? Why or why not?

Possible Service Opportunity

1. Consider helping with VBS June 24-27, @9AM-12:15PM.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for enabling us, like the people of ancient Turkey, to love you even though we didn't see you during the days when you lived on earth. Thank you for giving us the ability to wonder about things we can't figure out. Thank you for your Holy Spirit which guides us into all the truth we need to know. Thank you for giving us life in your name because we believe that you are indeed the Messiah, the Son of God.

In your precious name,

Amen