



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for Sunday, April 7, 2024

Series: "Now What?"

Sermon Title: "After Easter, Now What?"

Pastor: Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Primary Text: I Peter 1:3-12

Theme/Concept:

What is the present-day impact of the Resurrection of Jesus? In a brief paragraph, 1st Peter 1 gives nine (!) ways that Jesus' Resurrection changes our lives today. The sermon also includes how the Resurrection gives us "Living Hope" (1st Peter 1:3) and what it means. It is a hope that is never extinguished by circumstances, as "Living Water" (John 4) is flowing/spring waters that do not cease in dry times.

Icebreaker (for groups):

What inheritance would you like to pass on to someone, and how would it bring you and them joy?

Reflections on the Sermon:

The Easter season and Resurrection Sunday are fresh in our minds. What new thoughts or reminders did you take away from the sermon this week?

Scripture Passage:

I Peter 1:3-12 (NIV)

Praise to God for a Living Hope

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though 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.

Reviewing the Scripture:

1. In verse 3 the Apostle Peter wrote of the great actions and work of our Heavenly Father. What are they and what should be our response?
2. According to verse 4 what has God provided for His children?
3. What did Peter tell the people of God to expect in verse 5 regarding the last days? (Feel free to refer to another translation).
4. Verses 6-7 state, "So be truly glad", and then informed the people of contrasting experiences to come. What was coming?
5. How did the Apostle describe the believers' faith, and what would it bring? (Verse 7)
6. Give a summary of versus 8-9 in your own words.
7. What do we learn about the Old Testament prophets and their understanding in verses 10-11?
8. In verse 12 we read of the Good News of Jesus Christ. How was it, and how is it today, presented to people?

Going Deeper:

1. What do we learn about the angels in heaven at the end of this passage?

2. In the introduction of this 1st chapter of Peter, in verses 1-2, what are we told about the chosen people who are living as foreigners (the diaspora)?
3. Verse 5 refers to protection and safety. From what are believers shielded? For how long? Feel free to elaborate on the previous question number 3 in the “Review Scripture”.
4. What benefits are there in trials and sufferings for a believer in Jesus?
5. To what do people often turn in times of sorrow and suffering? Pray about how you can be a support for someone that you know that is going through a difficult time; how can you reach out in a practical way?
6. How would you describe to someone God’s boundless or great mercy, as found in verse 3? You may want to tie in the words of Jesus in John 4 regarding “Living Water”.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, all praise to you for your boundless mercy and love for us. We live in the hope of eternal life that you have provided through our Lord Jesus, the Risen Savior. You have given us joy and peace in times of hardship, and we are thankful for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, working to refine our faith. Help us to bring glory and honor to you in our daily lives.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Personal Reflection Questions:

1. How have the trials and challenges you have been through strengthened and refined your faith? Do you experience living hope?
2. What fills you with joy in life?
3. What is the goal of your faith? Do you long for a closer walk with Jesus?
4. Consider participating in the up-coming Super Serve Day on Saturday, April 13, 2024 with members of your small group.