

TALK IT OVER

How is everyone doing right now? Do you have any needs? (Push a little here. Everyone is dealing with the virus and isolation so make sure you know how your people are doing.)

Read the Apostles Creed together (Found on 3r page & we are focusing in today on the 4th sentence) and then 1 Corinthians 15 (Passage is on 2nd page.). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (Pastor Brad said that the New Testament doesn't have the stuff made of legends. He said that the details of the resurrection were given SPECIFICALLY, INSTANTLY, AWKWARDLY and STUBBORNLY. Why do you think God mapped it out like this? Pastor Brad reminded us of somethings Joe talked about last week...specific names and dates of the events but went further in the 1 Corinthians 15. That poem/song has been traced back to 6 - 12 months after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Does that strike you as incredible? What does that say about God/the early church? What does that say about how they viewed that event? It gives a sense of urgency.)
- What did you learn about people? (Why do you think those awkward details are left in there? Mark 14:51-52 mentions a "young man"- him being disrobed and running away naked. Why is that even in there? Pastor Brad mention the apostle John mentioning he outran Peter to the tomb- John 20:4. Does knowing they were still just people change your perspective of them? Of the events? How does seeing them in real life situations, acting like we do, strengthen your faith? Pastor Brad said they stuck to the story stubbornly. He walked through how the apostles died and only John survived- being boiled in oil. Why would they do honestly do that?!? What does it tell us, that each of them died for the resurrection?)
- What will you take away from this discussion? (The resurrection changed the lives of the people forever. They died for it and because of it. If we hold the resurrection as truth how should it change our lives? Does it change our lives? Day to day? How about in light of COVID 19? What does the resurrection say in our current situation?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (How can you be a blessing to those around you? What does the resurrection of Jesus call you to? Big picture? But also in your homes? Neighborhoods?)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read Acts 1. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

1 Corinthians 15

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it.² It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.^[b]

³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.⁵ He was seen by Peter^[c] and then by the Twelve.⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers^[d] at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.⁹ For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church.

¹⁰ But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without

results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.¹¹ So it makes no difference whether I preach or they preach, for we all preach the same message you have already believed.

The Resurrection of the Dead

¹² But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead?¹³ For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either.¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.¹⁵ And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead.¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost!¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

²⁴ After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.²⁵ For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet.²⁶ And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.²⁷ For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority."^[e] (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority," that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.)²⁸ Then, when all things are under his authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.

²⁹ If the dead will not be raised, what point is there in people being baptized for those who are dead? Why do it unless the dead will someday rise again?

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³⁰ And why should we ourselves risk our lives hour by hour? ³¹ For I swear, dear brothers and sisters, that I face death daily. This is as certain as my pride in what Christ Jesus our Lord has done in you.

³² And what value was there in fighting wild beasts—those people of Ephesus^[f]—if there will be no resurrection from the dead? And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!”^[g] ³³ Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. For to your shame I say that some of you don’t know God at all.

The Resurrection Body

³⁵ But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” ³⁶ What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. ³⁷ And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. ³⁸ Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed. ³⁹ Similarly there are different kinds of flesh—one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

⁴⁰ There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. ⁴¹ The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And

even the stars differ from each other in their glory.

⁴² It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. ⁴³ Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. ⁴⁴ They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

⁴⁵ The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.”^[h] But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. ⁴⁶ What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. ⁴⁷ Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. ⁴⁸ Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. ⁴⁹ Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like^[i] the heavenly man.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die,^[j] this Scripture will be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”^[k]

⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?^[l]”

⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

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Apostles Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father
almighty, creator of heaven
and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his
only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he
descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again
from the dead.**

**He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right
hand of God the Father
almighty.**

**From there he will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**