

EASTER 2011
BAYSIDE WEST
community church

NEW SERIES: GOD, I HAVE A QUESTION?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?

Pastor Chuck Wysong
April 24, 2011

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?

1. HE SHOWS THAT HE LOVES ME PERSONALLY

"Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, "and I don't know where they have put him.' At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 'Woman,' he said, 'why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, '**Mary**.' She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!'" (which means Teacher). John 20:11-16 (NIV)

2. HE GIVES ME PEACE WHEN I MEET THE RISEN JESUS

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord." John 20:19-20 (NIV)

3. HE GIVES ME PURPOSE

"Again Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21,22 (NIV)

4. HE HELPS ME BELIEVE

"Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.'" John 20:24-25 (NIV)

"A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.' Thomas said to him, '**My Lord and my God!**'" John 20:26-28
"Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'" John 20:29

THE BOTTOM LINE:

WHAT JESUS DID FOR THEM, HE'LL DO FOR YOU!

A LIFE CHANGING PRAYER...

Dear God, Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. I believe Jesus was who He said He was and proved it by rising from death. I want to get to know You personally. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me and forgiving all my sins. I invite you to come into my life. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for Your free gift of eternal life. Amen.

TIME WITH GOD

Brief daily reflections through out the week

Monday

Read John 20:1-18. In the weekend service, you heard of Mary Magdalene's background: A loner, a woman with a past. It may sound funny to ask, but do you find you relate to her in anyway? What do you find significant about Jesus' response to her? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows you and calls you by name?

Today pray to God with this truth in mind: He knows you by name, better than you know yourself! Thank Him for this! Ask Him to help you behold Him with fresh eyes as present with you at all times!

Tuesday

Read John 20:19-20. Why were the disciples afraid? Why do you suppose the doors were locked? Does the locked door deter Jesus? In what ways does Jesus glide through locked doors in our world today? What fears do you struggle with?

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The future | <input type="checkbox"/> War/terrorism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> My own sin | <input type="checkbox"/> My children's future |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Job fears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accidents | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

What would Jesus say to you about your fears today?
Bring each of your fears specifically to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive His peace! Ask Him to help you behold with fresh eyes His promise of resurrection!

Wednesday

Read John 20:21-23. Jesus now gives his disciples an assignment. In fact, every time the risen Christ appears to anyone, He gives them a life mission. How does he describe their new mission here? Christ's words about forgiveness in verse 23 are a little confusing at first, but put them in light of everything else Jesus taught and modeled about forgiving even our enemies: Is there anyone that Jesus says we should not forgive? So what is He saying to His followers here about a primary part of their mission?

Christians believe Christ's words to the disciples apply to all followers of Jesus. In your own words, what does God send you into the world to do?

Thank God that He not only forgives your past, but gives you a reason for living today! Ask Him to help you live with that sense of purpose.

Thursday

Read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubt at times; perhaps not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but doubt that He will be good to you, or that He can make a difference right now in your life. What did you learn about Jesus' response to doubt in these verses?

How does this help you in your struggle with doubt? Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore?
Thank God that He isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank Him for the truth of His word. Ask Him to help you see the evidence He puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.

Friday

Read John 21:1-17. Earlier, what did Peter do when Jesus was on trial? How many times did he deny Jesus? How many times did Jesus reinstate Peter? What can you learn from this story about Christ's attitude toward you after you've failed? How is this different from the way we might expect God to act toward us after our failures?
Thank God today for His grace! Ask Him to forgive you and reinstate you if you have failed Him!

Saturday

Today, just meditate on God's goodness. Spend time quietly being with the risen, living and active Christ!

Please pray for the weekend services as we begin "GOD, I HAVE A QUESTION?" Thanks!