

Life Group Notes 3/31/2024
Pastor Mark Warren Resurrection Sunday

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 3/31. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On the Apostle's Creed.](#)
2. [On the sign with the charges, nailed to the top of a Roman cross.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Look at 1 Corinthians 15: [1](#)Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, and in which you stand firm. [2](#)By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

1. Does the gospel change?
2. Why not? What is it based on?
3. Does history change?

[3](#)For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, [4](#)that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, [5](#)and that He appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. [6](#)After that, He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. [7](#)Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. [8](#)And last of all He appeared to me also, as to one of untimely birth.

1. What is the impact of eyewitnesses on a testimony?
2. What is the impact of a high number of eyewitnesses on a testimony?
3. What is the impact of an event that was foretold centuries earlier?
4. Why is the resurrection a credible historical event?

[9](#)For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10](#)But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God

that was with me. [11](#) Whether, then, it was I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

1. What is the impact of a formerly hostile witness who gives testimony to an event?
2. How did Paul take advantage of the grace that was shown him?
3. How much harder did Paul work than the other apostles?
4. How much harder did Paul work than we?
5. What event changed Paul's perspective?
6. What event changed your perspective?

Pastor Mark talks about certain dilemmas that we encounter, especially when faith and life intersect. "We can either say, 'That's religion,' or we can say, 'That's actually Jesus,' but we have stages along the way as we go from the cross to the empty tomb to the years that follow the empty tomb."

Look up 1 Peter 3:[18](#) For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit, [19](#) in whom He also went and preached to the spirits in prison [20](#) who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built.

1. What do you see?
2. When He suffered, what was He suffering for? Whose sins?
3. According to Peter, here in this passage, just how far did Christ's suffering take Him?
4. Peter says He actually went to "the spirits in prison," what was His purpose for that?
5. Did the spirits hear Him?
6. How deep is the Father's love for us? How far is His patience extended?

Look at Isaiah 53: [4](#) Surely He took on our infirmities
and carried our sorrows;
yet we considered Him stricken by God,
struck down and afflicted.

[5](#) But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him,
and by His stripes we are healed.

[6](#) We all like sheep have gone astray,
each one has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid upon Him
the iniquity of us all.

1. What went into the tomb with him? Make a list.
2. People who looked at Jesus thought God was punishing Him. Why do we think that way?
3. What was God doing?
4. When Jesus rose from the dead, what stayed in the tomb?
5. How are you doing?

Pastor Mark points out that when Jesus came out of the tomb, He left behind his grave clothes. If you look at last week's study notes, those grave clothes are being studied to this day.

1. What purpose did leaving them behind serve?
2. Why is it impossible to deny the resurrection as a pivotal, historic event?

3. Why is understanding Jesus' days in the grave essential to understanding the resurrection?
4. What have you been holding on to that you can leave with Jesus' grave clothes in the tomb?

Pastor Mark says, "The advantage we have after Jesus walked out of the tomb is that we can have Jesus with us."

1. What scriptures can you cite to prove this?
2. Look up Matthew 28:20 **And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age.** Why is that to our advantage? When will He abandon us to our circumstances?
3. Look up John 16: **7But I tell you the truth, it is for your benefit that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.** How is this to our advantage?
4. Look up Matthew 18: **19Again, I tell you truly that if two of you on the earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. 20**For where two or three gather together in My name, there am I with them." How is this to our advantage?
5. How did the tomb lead to the fulfillment of these promises?
6. Why are we better off on this side of the tomb? Where is God?
7. Look at what God told Moses in Deuteronomy 31:**6Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.** **7Then Moses called for Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. 8The LORD Himself goes before you; He will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."** How many times in this passage are we told He will never leave us or forsake us?
8. What dangers come from discouragement and fear? What is the remedy?
9. How much more real are these promises after the resurrection?

Pastor Mark speaks of the day...not today...where every tear will be wiped away. "There is a day where Jesus returns. And He's going to be looking for a church, a people of God who is saying 'I'm ready for you Jesus.'"

1. What does Jesus' bride look like?
2. What does She need today?
3. Imagine meeting Jesus face to face. What changes for you?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Consider what got nailed to the cross.
3. Consider what you need to leave behind, buried in the tomb.
4. Consider what newness of life looks like. What is coming your way this year?

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On the Apostle's Creed**—Pastor Mark spoke of Jesus going from the cross to a time in hell. For many, this understanding comes from what Peter told us in his epistle, cited [above](#). The so-called Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest liturgical confessions of faith, recited to confirm a unity of faith as congregations met. It is still repeated regularly in liturgical services in many more traditional denominations: *I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into 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 life everlasting. Amen.*

This concept of Jesus' work on the cross opening up the gates of hell and disarming Satan, so that prisoners could come free reaches a cosmic level that is impossible to fathom.

2. **On the sign with the charges, nailed to the top of a Roman cross**—To further illustrate this principle, the cross itself would carry a sign above the head of the condemned that stated the charges for which he was crucified. The sign above thief to the right of Jesus would say, "Thief." That above the murderer would say, "Murderer." The accusation above Jesus' head said, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," in three languages. According to Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, that's not all that got nailed above His head. Look up Colossians 2: [13](#)*When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses, [14](#)having canceled the debt ascribed to us in the decrees that stood against us. He took it away, nailing it to the cross! [15](#)And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.* On a cosmic, eternal level, every possible decree, law or accusation

that was ever or could ever be written against us was nailed above His Head...our substitute. The accuser has been utterly disarmed forever, because there is no longer any accusation that can be made legally against us.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 15:3-7
Wednesday: Isaiah 53:4-6
Thursday: 1 Peter 3:18-20
Friday: Colossians 1:15-20
Saturday: Hebrews 1:1-4
Sunday: Colossians 2:13-15

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.