

Eyes Fixed on Jesus, Easter Sunday, Small Group Questions, (03/31/24)

Text: Matthew 28:1-10

Context: During the Good Friday service our eyes were fixed on Jesus as he entered the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed ‘**Not my will, but yours be done Father**’. (Matthew 26:36-46)

We then lingered at the foot of the cross, with bread and cup in hand, to remember what Jesus accomplished with his death. He paid the full penalty for our sin. Once and for all. The Lamb was slain, and we have been set free.

Now, as dawn breaks on Sunday morning, we arrive at the empty tomb. Jesus is no longer there for he has risen just as he said he would. However, we do find terrified and stunned guards, as well as fearful yet joyful women at the site.

Matthew’s incredibly straight forward and simple account provide us with much to think about this Easter. The evidence of the Risen King is clear and unwavering. The question is do we believe, and will we live as resurrection people with resurrection power?

Going Deeper Questions

- 1. Ask someone in your group to slowly read Matthew 28:1-10 three times. During the first reading, simply listen carefully. During the second reading, ask the Spirit to whisper a word or phrase into your mind. Now, with the final reading, reflect on ‘why’ that word or phrase is resonating with you. Share this with other members in your group.**
 - a. Note: This is a spiritual practice of reading, praying, and listening to scripture known as Lectio Divina. It is a discipline worthy of frequent engagement. Remember, the Word is inspired, living, active, and speaking!
- 2. Was there a common theme in your group or did different thoughts, words, and phrases surface? What might the Spirit be saying?**
- 3. The women were both frightened and filled with great joy. Why do you think this was? Can you describe a moment in your own faith journey when you were filled with both strong emotions? Is this normal when following Jesus?**
- 4. Pastor Wayne provided 5 reasons why he believes in the resurrection of Jesus. If you were asked by a friend at a dinner party, what would you say?**
- 5. How are we to live differently because of the Risen King Jesus? Do we?**