



Life Group Study Notes

Easter Sunday: Jesus, Our Savior!

April 16, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What is one of your earliest memories of attending a religious service? How would you describe your perception of it in one word?
- What did your family do for Easter? (Or another holy day, if you grew up with another religion)
- Who is furthest from God in your (extended) family?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

God created humans in his own image and granted them the privilege and responsibility of governing the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26-31; 2:5-8, 15). Adam and Eve were blessed with all the resources needed to both enjoy life and fulfill God's mission. They had only one prohibition from God: "[O]f the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gn 2:17, ESV).

Genesis 3 tells us that Adam and Eve rebelled against God and ate of the forbidden tree. Through that one action sin entered the human race and corrupted the entire human condition. The creature God had made, loved, and richly blessed was now condemned to death and eternal separation from its loving Creator. Every human since this initial rebellion has inherited the same fallen condition and is also separated from God.

Yet there is hope! God's response to human rebellion was to become a man in order to restore humanity to its original image and calling. On the cross Jesus carried the guilt of the first Adam as well as the sins of the whole world. God offers every person the opportunity to become part of a second lineage, that of the second Adam, Jesus.

[S]in came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned... But the gift is not like the trespass... For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:12, 15, 17 ESV)

Jesus died on the cross and rose again, so that God might ultimately fulfill his larger purposes for the creation as a whole. Not only has he reconciled repentant, believing sinners to himself, but he has secured the eventual renewal of the entire creation. Paul tells us that not only will we receive immortal resurrection bodies, but that the whole creation will be renewed (Romans 8:18-25). Imagine what it will be like to be conformed to the image of God's Son, to be glorified, and to be living in a renewed creation!

In the fulness of time, God will unite all things under the Lord Jesus Christ, whether things in heaven or things on earth (Ephesians 1:7-10; Colossians 1:19-20). Sin will be eradicated, the curse will be removed, and life will flourish!

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." (Revelation 21:3-5 ESV)

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How has the Gospel impacted your life?
- What do you think about when you think about life after death?
- For whom are you spiritually burdened that they would come to know, love, and walk with Jesus?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for Jesus and what he has accomplished for us and what he will yet accomplish for all who turn to him and trust in him.
- Ask God to open the eyes of our hearts to see in a greater measure the glories of what God has planned for us in the age to come.
- Ask God to send laborers into his harvest field and reap a great harvest in our time. Ask him to include you in his great mission to redeem the world.