



Sunday, April 1, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to John 20:1-18

Chuck Colson, former White House aide to President Nixon and founder of Prison Fellowship, once said about Jesus' resurrection, "I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead. Then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they couldn't keep a lie for 3 weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible!"

Colson's statement is not only a great apologetic argument for the truthfulness of the resurrection, but also a powerful testimony about its impact on the lives of those who truly believe it. As Pastor Don said on Sunday, "the resurrection is a game-changer." If we believe in the resurrection, it will fundamentally shape the way we think about everything. It changes the way we think about death (for obvious reasons), but it also changes the way we think about life: what real power is, what real joy is, what real love is. All of this transforms and renews our minds to think more like Christ and less like the world.

Context

John said he wrote his Gospel "so that [we] may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God" (20:31). This statement becomes the interpretive lens through which we interpret everything else in the Gospel of John. This not only includes, but comes to a climax in the resurrection. The resurrection is recorded so that we might know that Jesus of Nazareth is the rightful king of the whole world, anointed by God Himself, and proven such by being raised from the dead. Our rightful response is to swear our allegiance to Him and so receive eternal life.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Mary and the Master”

Read John 20:1-18

- Mary is weeping *lamentation*

- Mary is clinging *recognition*

- Mary is sharing *proclamation*

Discuss

- 1) What makes death so sad?
- 2) What are some things that might prevent someone from believing in Jesus' resurrection?
- 3) If you had been there that first Resurrection Sunday, like Mary was, what do you think your reaction would have been?
- 4) How does Jesus' resurrection change the way we think about death?
- 5) Mary immediately went and told the other disciples that she had seen the Lord (20:18). When you think about sharing Christ with someone, do you typically think of sharing about the resurrection? Why or why not?