



Sunday, April 17, 2022

Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Matt. 28:1-10

The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in human history. It was the beginning of the New Creation, in which God is making all things new. By His resurrection, we learn that His perfect righteousness was accepted by God and can be imputed to us so that we can be righteous in His sight as well. By His resurrection, we learn that death can and will be defeated one day once and for all. By His resurrection, we are given a certain hope, not only for the future, but for day-to-day life as well.

This is manifest in many ways, but as Pastor Don said Sunday: how else can we explain the fact that a few fearful, huddled-behind-locked-doors disciples could be transformed into a world-conquering church? Most of the apostles died preaching the truth that this man, Jesus, was the Son of God who died for sins and was raised again. Not only that, but many more who were not eyewitnesses of the fact have continued to give their lives because through the eyes of faith, they have beheld the risen Savior and King.

Context

Matthew's Gospel is concerned, in large part, with communicating how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. The first several chapters are littered with explicit quotations of Old Testament passages that He fulfilled and the book continues with many more allusions to Old Testament stories and maxims as Jesus carries out His teaching ministry. Matthew is also concerned, however, with the fact that Jesus's words are equally as authoritative as the word of Yahweh communicated in the Old Testament (see, especially, the Sermon on the Mount). In this way, it is significant that Jesus prophesied His own death and resurrection, a fact highlighted by the angels as they greeted the women on that glorious Resurrection morning.

Discuss

- 1) Why does the angel and Jesus each tell the women, “Do not be afraid” (v. 5, 10)?
- 2) What difference does it make that Jesus told them in advance that He would suffer, die, and rise again (v. 6)?
- 3) How does the empty tomb give us hope not only for eternity but for day-to-day life as well?
- 4) What are the implications of Jesus’s resurrection for those who do not believe?
- 5) How does Jesus’s resurrection motivate us as Christians for the mission He has called us to?