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April 21, 2019

Valley Church
Three Ways to See – John 20:1-9

Introduction:

John 20:1-9

Three Ways to See:

Verse 1: Mary “saw” that the stone had been removed...

Greek word **blepei** = to take a cursory glance

Verses 6-7: Peter “saw” the strips of linen lying there...

Greek word **theory** = to theorize, rationalize, deeply ponder

Verse 8: John “saw” and believed...

Greek word **eidon** = to see the light through personal revelation

1. We can see like Mary – and _____
2. We can see like Peter – and _____
3. We can see like John – and _____

“If I discover within myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

C.S. Lewis

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. How was your Easter weekend and what did you do to celebrate it? Did you grow up with any unusual Easter traditions in your family – apart from going to church, Easter baskets, egg hunts and the common stuff?

Ponderings:

2. Ultimately Christians accept the resurrection by faith. Yet, there are many reasons from history, logic and personal experience to affirm that the resurrection is factual. Share about how you came to believe in the Gospel and specifically, the resurrection. Were there any intellectual obstacles you had to overcome?
3. Assign the following verses from the Book of Acts to members of your small group. Read them in order and discuss the questions that follow...
 - Acts 2:24; 2:31; 3:15; 4:2; 4:10; 4:33; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30; 13:34; 13:37; 17:18; 17:32; 23:6; 23:8; 24:21
 - When you read this overview of sermons, stories and conversations from Acts, what does it tell you about the centrality of the resurrection in the mission of the early church?
 - Do you think that the resurrection gets enough “focus” (outside of Easter weekend) in modern Christianity? Explain your thoughts...
 - Often our presentations of the Gospel are saturated with talk about the cross. While this is hugely important, at what “level of importance” is the resurrection in our understanding of the Gospel? Explain your answer.
 - a) Not as important as the cross
 - b) Equally important as the cross
 - c) More important than the cross
 - Read 1 Corinthians 15:13-17 as a group. Does Paul's teaching here impact the way you answered the previous question? Explain...
4. We might say that the resurrection validates the work of the cross – and secures the power for life-transformation. How is your life different now than it was prior to faith in Christ?

Promptings:

5. The term “missional” is defined in numerous ways by different people, but the bottom line is that missional living means seeing ourselves as missionaries to the culture in which God has planted us. In what ways is your life missional? In what sense is your small group a missional community, if at all? What role does the resurrection play in empowering that focus?