

April 4th, 2021 Symphony-Easter **Bitter Sweet**

Small Group Discussion

1.Opening: Do you have any praises, prayer requests, words from the Lord, or sins to confess?

Discussion Question: What preconceived ideas might you have about the resurrection? (i.e. Jesus was resurrected spiritually, I don't think about it much)

2. Read the text: Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12; 36-44, John 20:1-29

3. Why do you think the accounts are different? Do you think it makes them less reliable? How might, if something like this happened again, would the accounts be different?

4. In the sermon we talked about the 4 different theories of what else could have happened... how many of those can you remember?

- wrong tomb theory
- hallucination
- swoon (jesus was mostly dead)
- $\hfill\square$ hoax theory (the disciples stole his body and made up the resurrection)

5. Read John 18:15-18; 25-27; Acts 4:18-20 - What do you think was the cause in Peter's change of tone? How can that be explained? Have you had a deep

conviction or change in sight yet that has let you speak with boldness? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you get a vision of the resurrected Jesus this week so that you might be convicted in your bones of his resurrection and his Lordship over all.

6. One of the implications of Jesus' resurrection is that all creation will be redeemed from the wages of sin. **Read Romans 8:18-25** - See how Paul weaves together the idea of not only bodily glorification and redemption, but all of creation is groaning awaiting that day. Jesus' resurrection doesn't just mean forgiveness of sin for us, but that all of creation will be set right that has been marred by sin.

7. Do you think you live in a way that reveals that you have the conviction and true belief that Jesus is alive and he will come back as surely as the sun will rise tomorrow? How often do you let the idea of Jesus coming back enter your daily thoughts? Remember that following Jesus is about training not trying, **Read Romans 13:12**. Put a notification in your phone 2 times a day to remind yourself that the night is almost over, and that the dawn of the new creation in Jesus is just coming over the horizon.

As you put on the armor of light remember to be a blessing:

Begin with prayer

Listen

Eat

Serve

Share the story