

EASTER SUNDAY 2019

INTRO

Do you ever like to wake up early in the morning?

Were there any Easter traditions that you had growing up?

What is your favorite kind of chocolate?

READ

Matthew 28:1-20

2 Corinthians 3:18

Matthew's account of the resurrection of Jesus is short and does not mention many of the details that the other gospel writers include.

REFLECT

Three things were highlighted from this text, framed as three invitations:

- Come and see
- Come and behold
- Go and tell

Even though Matthew's account is short, there is a lot of focus on making sure that there was no mistake that Mary Magdalene and the other women were sure that they had the right tomb and that Jesus was not there.

In general, the gospel writers lay out many details in their descriptions; who was in power at the time, how the trial of Jesus progresses, how he was crucified and where, who saw Jesus after he was raised...many specific places, people and events.

Qu: Why do you think it is important to underscore the historical dimension of the resurrection and not just its meaning?

After the resurrection, we see the instinctive response of the Mary and the other disciples to worship Jesus. To behold the glory and presence of God is an important dimension of worship. When

Jesus gave his life on the cross, the veil separating the holy of holies in the temple where the presence of God dwelt, was torn in two, top to bottom (Mark 15:38)

2 Corinthians 3:18 says that as we behold the glory of the Lord we are transformed into the same image from one degree to another.

Qu: What do you think it looks like practically for us to behold the glory of the Lord?

The final invitation mentioned is to go and tell. Immediately following the resurrection of Jesus the telling began! The first message was a simple one but profound, "Jesus has risen, just as he said!"

Sometimes the church has been guilty of making the gospel about so many other things rather than starting with the simple message that Christ is risen.

Qu: What messages and attitudes have you found the church to sometimes be guilty of instead of emphasizing the simplicity of the gospel?

Qu: How can we avoid these pitfalls?

RESPOND

How might you respond to one or more of these invitations?

PRAY

- Pray for one that we might have the Spirit's empowering to follow through on what God is showing us.
- Pray for one another for any needs in our lives or challenges we may be facing.