

Easter 2 - April 3, 2016

"Believing Is Seeing"

John 20:19-31

Rev. John Kelling, Emeritus

Sermon Thoughts to ponder at Home...

(take time to discuss today's message with family)

Why is it that we do not take what a person says "as truth"? Human nature (sin) makes us skeptical of what others say, yet we want them to believe what we say. Our text this Sunday leads us to believe what Jesus said nearly 2000 years ago - is just as true today. That is faith!

1) Easter Eve

The day begins with Peter, John, and Mary at the empty tomb. They saw there was no body, just folded linens. The men leave, but Mary Magdalene remains, and ultimately is greeted by the physical Jesus. All three tell the rest that Jesus is alive.

- How might the words of Peter and John be less credible about a "risen" Jesus than Mary's?
- Mary had a "questionable" past. And being a woman, how credible might her words be to the other disciples?

What do we think when someone tells us a story which seems "unbelievable"?

- How might we respond?
- Does it affect how we view one's credibility for other things?

The text says the disciples were behind "locked doors" because they feared the Jewish leaders.

- What did they think would happen?
- How might the disciples also fear Pontius Pilate?

2) Final Proof

Jesus appears to His disciples without Thomas present. Imagine their reaction to Jesus' presence - behind "*locked doors*".

- What is the one thing Jesus does to prove it is Him?
- Why is that all that was needed?

Jesus now gives the disciples the authority to forgive or retain (not forgive) sin. We call this the Office of the Keys.

- Why do you think Jesus did this at this time?
- Jesus said, “...*I am sending you.*” What were they to do with this new “authority”?

Thomas “doubted” that Jesus was alive. He wanted proof.

- Why do you think Jesus chose Thomas to be an official witness to His resurrection?
- Why did Jesus choose to give him the same proof he gave to the disciples a week earlier?
- This Sunday’s focus is on the testimony of “Doubting” Thomas. Why is that important to Christianity?

3) Our Final Proof

The day will come when we are face to face with Jesus, just as the disciples were.

- Will you need to see the same proof the disciples did to realize it is Jesus before you?

Jesus said to the disciples, “*Because you have seen Me, you have believed.*”

- What was Jesus really saying to them about their doubt?

Then Jesus said, “...*blessed are those who have NOT seen and yet have believed.*” Jesus spoke these words for all generations to come... that’s us!

- What was Jesus really saying about our doubt?
- Why then is our faith so important?

We have many opportunities in our life to retell the Easter Resurrection story

- Do those you know see you as a credible witness?

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31

“Having -on-ality”

Mother ~ Daughter ~ Friend Banquet

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Oconomowoc Golf Club

Adults: \$20.00	Children: \$10 (3-11 yrs)
Menu: Pork Tenderloin	Menu: Chicken Tenders
Potatoes	Mac ‘n Cheese
Vegetables	Fruit
Salad & Rolls	Ice Cream
Tuxedo Cake	

Fellowship 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Entertainment 8:00 pm

(Lake Country Lutheran High School’s Vocal Ensemble)

Get your Mother-Daughter-Friend Banquet tickets from the church office (262.567.5001) no later than *Tuesday, April 26th*. Fun and fellowship for all ages!

BRING YOUR PURSE

What’s in yours?



“...ing the Word of God”

Bring a bag of Hard Candy for



Preferred flavors:

Root Beer
Peppermint
Lemon
Ginger

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD!
For he commanded and they were created.

And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Beasts and all livestock,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the LORD!

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**