

Resurrection relationships

DAVID DRURY | MARCH 18, 2018

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the great hinge of history. The risen Christ is nothing short of the way Christians understand the entire universe God is bringing toward restoration. It is hard to overstate the scope or importance of the resurrection with lofty words.

However, when Jesus rises, the first thing on his agenda is more simple and commonplace: relationship. Jesus doesn't show off his new death-defeating cred in the Temple to those who doubted and killed him. He doesn't make a big deal about it at all.

Instead, Jesus prioritizes his time with resurrection conversations with those who are hopeless, ashamed, grieving and doubtful. Yes, Jesus makes *all things new*, but the first thing he makes new is his relationships.

Mary of Magdala is *hopeless* at the death of the one who delivered her from her demons (literally). But Jesus first reveals himself to the weeping Mary, giving her hope again.

Peter is *ashamed* of his betrayal, having denied Christ. But Jesus makes that relationship new by restoring Peter as his trusted disciple.

Mary the Mother of Jesus is *grieving* the loss of her son before her—the greatest loss for a parent. But Jesus appears to her, turning her mourning into gladness.

Thomas is *doubtful* of the entire event, unwilling to believe his closest friends. But Jesus shows up and gives Thomas something to believe in.

Are you or is someone you know *hopeless, ashamed, grieving or doubtful*? Jesus brings resurrection relationship to those struggles and whatever else we experience that tears down relationships. Jesus rises and makes all things new, carefully and personally sewing back together what was once ripped apart.

To the hopeless, Jesus reveals a whole other level of unbelievable hope. To the ashamed, he gives his unearned trust again. To the grieving, he restores unexplainable gladness. To the doubtful, he not only gives belief, but also an unprecedented opportunity to witness to others about that belief.

May you experience these kinds of resurrection relationships this Easter season as Jesus Christ makes all things new for you.

March 25, 2018

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

In Christ Alone - "Palm Sunday"

Sermon Notes:

Luke 19:28-48

1. Jesus _____ over Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-42

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Malachi 3:1-3

2. Jesus drives out commerce in the _____

Luke 19:45-46

Matthew 21:12-16

3. Jesus' authority is _____

Luke 20:1-8

We learn several things from these verses:

A. Jesus' tenderness and compassion towards _____

B. There is a religious ignorance which is _____ and blameworthy

C. God is _____ to _____ special opportunities and invitations

D. God disapproves of the profanation of _____

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. What is your next step? Have you been spiritually blind to something that is now obvious to you? What will you do (or stop doing) this week to resolve that conviction from the Holy Spirit?

Challenge: This week I will pray for the following national and state leaders

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

Philippines Clean Water Project

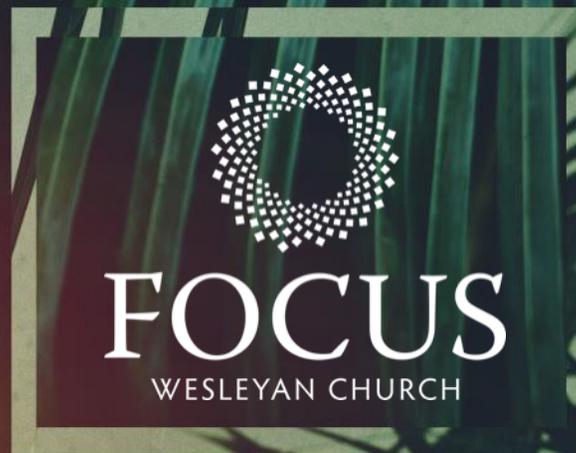
For nearly three years, our Church and several others from our KY-TN District of **The Wesleyan Church**, have been supporting a clean water project at a village in the Philippines through World Hope International. If you would like to help support this effort, consider placing a donation in the wooden bucket before you exit today.

FOCUS Youth Group - Will not be meeting tonight.

We will begin meeting again Sunday, April 8, after Spring Break.

Wednesday Night Meal

We would like to invite you and your family to join us for supper this Wednesday night. The meal will be ready at 5:30 PM. You have been invited to come and share a delicious meal and uplifting fellowship with us.



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