

The Essentials of Easter

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 24:36-53

Discussion Questions

1. Do you look forward to Easter or Resurrection Day? Why or why not?
2. The Resurrection Day is the climax of the Christian calendar, but sadly, this generation is losing out on the significance of this day. Let us recall the events leading up to this day: Jesus was crucified on the cross on Friday. When He died, His body was laid in the tomb which was sealed with a large stone. A Roman soldier guarded the tomb to ensure that no one steals His body. On Saturday, nothing happened. Then on the third day, Sunday, Jesus resurrected from the dead. Stories from different people who claimed to have seen Jesus circulated when Jesus' body was not found in the tomb. Peter and John saw for themselves and reported to other disciples that Jesus' body was indeed gone from the tomb. Two other followers of Jesus claimed that He walked with them on the road to Emmaus. They didn't recognize Jesus at first until He ate with them. They, too, reported it to the disciples, and that was when the resurrected Jesus appeared to them. Read Luke 24:36-53. Imagine yourself as one of the disciples who had had an encounter with Him after He resurrected, how do you think would you have reacted? Have you experienced a miracle of God, like a transformed life, provision for a special need, or a serious illness that has been healed?
3. This passage in Luke shows us three essentials of Easter that we should remember:
 - a. **Essential #1: A Resurrected Savior (v. 36-46).** For the first time since He resurrected, Jesus stood in the midst of His disciples. What was their initial reaction to His appearance? How did Jesus prove that it was indeed Him they were seeing? If you were in that gathering of Jesus' followers, on what basis would you believe beyond doubt that it was really Jesus? Discuss the great difference

of Jesus Christ from others whom many people consider as god. What is the significance of the Resurrection of Christ in your faith?

- b. **Essential #2: A Call to Action (for evangelism) (v. 47-49).** God calls His children to share the good news of salvation to all nations--the good news that God the Son, Jesus Christ, gave His own life to save mankind. The fervency of your desire to share this good news correlates with your own relationship with Jesus. What is the difference of the church from other social groups, associations and clubs? Discuss the uniqueness of the church's message and its effect to people. How can you be a witness for the Lord to people around you?
- c. **Essential #3: An attitude of joy to cultivate (v. 50-53).** The book of Acts tells us that after the resurrection of Jesus, He was on earth for 40 days before His ascension. 1 Corinthians 15 tells us that He appeared to more than 500 people. He ascended to heaven, and then the Holy Spirit was given to those who believe. How did the people feel after Jesus had left them (v. 52)? Because of Jesus' resurrection, death is conquered, Satan is defeated, and victory is assured. How do these facts give you joy? Is it possible to live a Christian life with an attitude of joy in spite of trials and struggles in life? How?

Walk

Easter is about our resurrected Savior. It calls us for action to evangelize--if the disciples didn't heed this call for action, Christianity would have ended in that generation. And gives us a reason to cultivate an attitude of joy. How are these essentials of Easter true in your life? Are you thankful that your Savior didn't remain dead, but is alive today? What are you doing to continue the legacy of Christianity? Ponder how having the living God in your life should make you develop an attitude of joy regardless of your situation.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that through our Lord Jesus Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection, my relationship with You was restored. It gives me so much hope, not only in my life right now, but throughout eternity. May what You did for me urge me to action by sharing the good news of Your salvation to the many people I know who do not have Jesus in their lives as their Savior yet. Help me to take my responsibility as Your vessel of blessings seriously, that the joy of having You in my life would be evident as I walk with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.