

The Creed
Week 6: April 11-17, 2010

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty...

Sunday

Read:

- Review the parts of the Apostles' Creed that we have covered to this point in the sermon series.

Observations and Questions

- What are the aspects of the Creed that are easiest for you to believe? What phrases challenge you?

Key Concept:

- The Creed provides a thumbnail overview of the foundational tenets of the Christian faith.

Questions to Ponder:

- Have you taken time to read the supporting Scriptures that the Creed is based upon? Have you found anything that stretches your faith? Have you been taking the phrases of the Creed into your prayer time during this sermon series?

Pray

- Thank the Lord for His amazing story, as summarized in the Apostles' Creed. Break the phrases down and spend time in prayer with each one, lifting to God and sharing your thoughts about it with Him. Ask Him to bless all truth to your spirit so that you are able to deepen your relationship with Him day by day.

Monday

Read: Acts 2: 22-32

Observations and Questions

- What Old Testament prophecy is re-told in this gospel passage? How does John give it application to the present situation? How does John reinforce the validity of the prophecy (vs. 32)?

Key Concept:

- God foretold the resurrection in the Old Testament, which was affirmed by in the New Testament with by the writings of the Apostle John, who was one of the eyewitnesses to this event.

Questions to Ponder:

- Do you wonder if the Old Testament writers had any idea that what they were writing would come into being at some point hundreds of years later? Have you ever been an eyewitness to an accident or a crime and been asked to give an eyewitness account of that event? How valuable are eyewitnesses in the process of confirming the truth of testimony and rendering judgment (See Deut 19:15)?

Pray

- As we continue to celebrate the resurrection in our hearts, praise God for His power to overcome the grip of death. Thank Him for the hope that this gives us for our own ultimate resurrection from the grave to be with Him through eternity.

Tuesday

Read: John 2: 13 – 19

Observations and Questions

- What is the context of this passage...what is going on here? Who is involved in the scene? What does Jesus do and what is asked of Him?

Key Concept:

- Jesus proclaims His power over death as being His authority to cleanse the temple.

Questions to Ponder:

- Do you think that the Jews who asked Jesus the question understood that “this temple” referred to His own body rather than Herod’s temple in which they stood? Why do you think that Jesus answered the Jews as he did? What purpose was served by Jesus’ post-resurrection appearance to the disciples and many others (see 1 Cor. 15: 5-8)? What would have been different had he not appeared following His resurrection?

Pray

- Thank the Lord today for giving us the Holy Bible that tells God’s story to us from the beginning of time through the birth and spread of the Church throughout the world. Marvel at how the Old and New Testaments mesh through prophecy proclaimed and then fulfilled. Take joy in the message of God’s love as seen through His original creation and through its redemption through the sacrifice of His son.

Wednesday

Read: Acts 1: 1-10; Luke 24: 50-51

Observations and Questions

- What part of the apostle's creed is drawn from these passages (Acts 1:9; Luke 24: 51)? Do you get the impression that the apostles were expecting what happened? What promise do the angels give them for the future?

Key Concept:

- Jesus ascended to heaven following His resurrection. He will return...

Questions to Ponder:

- Why do you think Jesus' ascension into heaven took place as it did, rather than having Him just disappear? What impact does the ascension have for you personally? What is your reaction to what the angels (men in white) said following the ascension? Does what they said make a difference in how you understand God and His plan for eternity?

Pray

- Thank God that He is not done with us...that he will come again and raise us to be with Him through eternity. Ask God to help you to know how to share the good news of the Gospel with others who don't know Jesus as their Savior. Also, pray for those whom you believe are not yet in the Kingdom of God that He will call them to Himself and they will trust in Jesus.

Thursday

Read: Matthew 28: 18-20

Observations and Questions

- Who is Jesus speaking to in this passage? What is he saying? Is it a request, or a directive (command)? By what authority is He saying this? What promise does He make?

Key Concept:

- Jesus has given his disciples their marching orders to share the Gospel message across the earth and to mentor converts into full discipleship.

Questions to Ponder:

- If you are a Christian, how do you hear this message of Jesus? Is He talking to you? If so, are you obeying His message? What are some ways that you can support the ministry of evangelism and discipleship in addition to doing it yourself? You have control over the use of your time, your talents, and your finances. How are these being used to carry out Jesus' last command (see also Acts 1:8)

Pray

- Pray for God to use you in wonderful ways to fulfill the Great Commission. If you are not yet involved in sharing your faith with others in any way, ask God to help you know where and how to do this...then look for opportunities to step out... in faith...knowing that he has promised to be with you always (Matthew 20:20)

Friday

Read: Ephesians 1: 18-23; Hebrews 9:24

Observations and Questions

- In the Ephesians passage, where is Jesus now? What is his responsibility? In the Hebrews verse, what is Jesus doing for us now?

Key Concept:

- Jesus is presently in heaven, serving with all of God's authority, and intercedes on our behalf with His Father.

Questions to Ponder:

- What do you think of the mystery regarding how the Father and Son interrelate in Heaven? What does it mean that Jesus "appears for us in God's presence?" Can you imagine what Jesus is saying to God the Father about you?

Pray

- Share your heart with Jesus in prayer today, glorifying Him who is now ruling in heaven far above the creation that He made and in which He once appeared.

Saturday

Read: Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20

Observations and Questions

- From the verses listed above, and their context, what is taking place that involves humanity? What is to be our connection to Christ and to people in our world?

Key Concept:

- Jesus has gifted His disciples for the edification of the church. We are charged to be Christ's representatives in the world today.

Questions to Ponder:

- These verses apply to our role within the body of believers and to those outside of the body. Are you participating actively in both functions? How? If not, why not? How might you begin to fulfill these roles that Jesus wants you to assume?

Pray

- Ask the Lord to speak to your spirit regarding how you are at work on His behalf in both of the communities mentioned above. Pray that He would give you both direction and passion to fulfill His call on your life. If you do not know what your spiritual gift(s) are, discover them and put them to use. If you would like some help in this process, touch base with GroupLife and let them know of your interest in this area. You may do so by email at grouplife@mclanechurch.org, by phone at 734-1907 ext. 27, or by dropping in at the GroupLife Center.