

Thank God that he isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank him for the truth of his word. Ask him to help you see the evidence he puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.

Thursday

Please read John 20:22. The resurrected Christ gave the apostles power. Paul says you and I have the same power available to us! Please read Ephesians 1:18-20. What do you feel powerless over in your life? How can God's power help in this situation? If you really believed that you had the exact same power that raised Christ from the dead, what would you do that you have been hesitant to do? Ask God to help you truly believe and understand that you are empowered by the Holy Spirit! Ask him to help you to live a life worthy of his calling!

Friday

Please read John 11:21-27. What do you say to Jesus' question: "Do you believe this?" What difference has your faith in the resurrected Christ made in your life? Thank God today specifically for the hope of the resurrection—be specific about what it means to you! If you have never done it before, say "yes" to Christ's question in this passage: "Do you believe this?"

Saturday

Please read Matthew 7:13-29 to prepare for tomorrow's message. Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters tomorrow. Pray for both of our Sunday services, that they will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.

Resources

The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus by Lee Strobel

The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates the Evidence for the Resurrection by Lee Strobel

Looking at the Life of Jesus by Rebecca Manley Pippert

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

Evidence That Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell

I'm Glad You Asked by Kenneth Boa and Larry Moody

Jesus and the Victory of God by N.T. Wright



Message by Rick McRostie on Easter Sunday, April 16, 2017

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.** Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

"The Good News is about his Son, Jesus. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 1:3-4 (NLT)

The Resurrection of Jesus Provides...

1. A Bridge

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 2:5 (NLT)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23



First Covenant Church of Eureka
2526 J Street Eureka, CA 95501
707-442-6774
Church email: fcceureka@sbcglobal.net
Pastor Rick's email: rickm@fcceureka.org
Church Web Site: www.fcceureka.org

2. A Bridge

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” John 11:25-26

“But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead...everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.” 1 Corinthians 15:20a & 22b (NLT)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:1-7

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:4

3. A Bridge

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.’” Matthew 28:5-6

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” John 20:19

The change in Jesus’ followers after the resurrection:

| BEFORE | AFTER |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Anxious | Courageous |
| Insecure | Confident |
| Confused | Had a Purpose |
| Discouraged | Experienced Joy |
| Weak | Power |
| Sorrow | Hope |
| Fear | Peace |

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today’s topic.

This week’s memory verse:

“I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead!” Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

Monday

Please read Matthew 28:1-10. Which of the *bridges* built by Jesus in his resurrection do you particularly sense a need for in your life right now? What about the resurrection made a special impression on you this year? What about the resurrection helps you face an uncertain future?

Thank God that the risen Christ is here with you now! Thank him for his victory over death and sin. Thank him for the hope he gives you for the future! If you never have before, take time right now to receive Christ’s forgiveness.

Tuesday

Please read John 20:19-23. Why were the disciples afraid? Why do you suppose the doors were locked? What fears do you struggle with:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| _____ The future | _____ War/terrorism |
| _____ Violence in our city | _____ My own sin |
| _____ My children’s future | _____ Death/illness |
| _____ Economic uncertainty | _____ Job worries |
| _____ Health concerns | _____ Accidents |
| _____ Other: _____ | |
| _____ Other: _____ | |

Does the locked door in this passage deter Jesus? In what ways does Jesus glide through locked doors in our world today? What would Jesus say to you about your fears today? Please read Romans 8:38-39 and Philippians 4:4-7!

Bring each of your fears to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive his peace that is beyond human understanding!

Wednesday

Please read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubt at times; perhaps not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but doubt that God will be good to you, or that God can make a difference in your life. In what ways can you relate to Thomas? What did you learn about Jesus’ response to doubt in these verses? How does this help you in your struggle with doubt? Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore? Here is a book that may answer some of your doubts:

• Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Strobel is a Yale Law School grad and former prize-winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune who describes his own journey from atheism to faith in Christ.)