

## Seven Days That Matter



### Notes:

1.

2.

3.

# SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of April 21, 2019

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

## ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we learned that Easter is one of seven important days found in Scripture. How does Easter connect with the other six days?
- 2 Looking at 1 Corinthians 15:14 and your notes from the weekend, why is Jesus' resurrection the pivotal point of history?
- 3 In light of what we heard this weekend, how should we live today? What fears, obstacles, etc. hold us back from living today with the last day in mind?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 **John 1:4-13, ESV** – <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**John 8:12-14, ESV** – <sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true." <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."

Looking at the passages above, what does Jesus mean by calling Himself "the light of the world"?

In an empty room with nothing more than a light on, does the light penetrate the dark or does the dark penetrate the light? If you were in this room, would you be drawn to the light or to the dark? What would you be drawn to if the light was turned off? How can we turn the light on in our own lives?

Jesus tells us that those who follow Him “will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” How should this understanding impact the way we live our lives?

**2** **1 Cor 15:1-8, ESV** – *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*

**1 Cor 15:17-22, ESV** – *<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Based on the passages above, why is the resurrection of Jesus so critical to the Christian faith?

C. S. Lewis pointed out, “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher.” “He would either be insane or else he would be ‘the devil of hell.’” “You must make your choice,” he writes. C. S. Lewis goes on, “let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.” Do you agree or disagree with C. S. Lewis? Explain.

**3** **Josh 24:14-15, ESV** – *<sup>14</sup> “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”*

**Acts 9:19-22, ESV** – *For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” <sup>21</sup> And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” <sup>22</sup> But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.*

Joshua gives an ultimatum to the Israelites that is still pertinent for us today, “Choose this day whom you will serve?” However, we must understand that this ultimatum comes with action, not passivity. What actions should be prevalent in the life of someone who serves the Lord?

How can we be inspired by Paul’s example of pointing people to Jesus?

## TAKING IT HOME

How are you pointing people to Jesus this day with the last day in mind? Are there things you need to change to make your light brighter as you live out your life? Share what God is teaching you with an accountability partner and pray together.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matthew 28

Mark 16

Luke 24

John 20