

Date: July 28, 2019

Text: Acts 22:1-26:32

Title: “The Hope of the Resurrection”

Big Idea: The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

Paul’s Defense Speeches

Read Acts 23:6; 23:29; 24:14-21; 24:22-27; 25:18-19; and 26:6-8 & 22-23.

What is the core issue that Paul’s sees for why he is imprisoned and on trial?

Three Truths about the Resurrection

1. *Jesus’ resurrection gives us a foretaste of our future.*

If you have time, read through 1 Corinthians 15 together and discuss what it says about the resurrection. If not, focus on 15:20-23.

What are firstfruits, and why is Jesus called the “firstfruits” of the resurrection?

First, it means that the future has broken into the present.

Second, it means that we too will be resurrected just like he has been. Read 1 Corinthians 15:49; Philippians 3:20-21 and 1 John 3:2.

- How was Jesus resurrected? Answer: *In the body.* See Romans 8:23, etc.
- The resurrection challenges our skepticism with Paul’s bare question: “Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?” (26:8). What is your response when you think about resurrection: skepticism or hope?

2. *Jesus’ resurrection turns the world upside down.*

It inaugurates Jesus’ Kingdom

It anticipates the Judgment.

- Read John 5:25-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Daniel 12:2-3. What do these verses say about judgment? Why do you think Paul speaks with Felix (Acts 24:25) about the coming judgment? See also Acts 24:14.
- What do you think about when you think about Judgment? Read Psalm 98. Why would the creation itself “applaud” (v. 8) at God’s judgment? Biblically, judgment is a good thing, because it means that things will be made right. *Justice* will prevail.
- Does God’s judgment *worry* you or does it *give you hope*?

3. *Jesus’ resurrection should radically effect how we live.*

The resurrection empowers us to live holy lives

- See again, Paul’s conversation with Felix (Acts 24:23).

- Read Ephesians 1:18-20. What power is made available to us? How does that fuel holy living?
- Look at Ephesians 5:1-21 & Romans 6:1-14. How does Paul urge us to live, and how are we supposed to accomplish this kind of life?

The resurrection compels us to join God in his mission to the world.

- Read Acts 26:22-29. How do you explain Paul's life—can you do it apart from the resurrection? What should the resurrection compel us to do (verse 23)?
- Can your life be explained apart from the resurrection? Is that a good thing?
- How can you let the resurrection change you?