



Famous Last Words – It is Finished Sermon Discussion Questions - April 3rd & 4th, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.

John 19:30 (NLT) [Jesus] said, “It is finished!” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Matthew 28:1-8 (NLT) Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was white as snow... Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NLT) And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless.

Romans 8:11 (NLT) The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Warm Up:

HOPPY EASTER! What are some of your favorite Easter memories? What are some Easter memories you are looking forward to making in the years to come?

Discussion:

1) In his message, Pastor Tom talked a lot about how fear and pain have shown up for us when circumstances get tough.

What are some ways you have seen fear and panic in your own life or in the lives of those around you recently? What alternatives do you see for fear and panic in the life of a believer?

2) Pastor Tom shared this quote from G.K. Chesterton toward the beginning of his message. “When a man stops believing in God, he doesn’t then believe in nothing, he believes anything.”

What might it look like for someone to believe anything? How have you seen this play out in your life or the lives of others?

3) Excerpt from Pastor Tom’s Message;

Faith is absolute certainty (in spite of my circumstances) that Jesus is who he says he is and will keep every promise he has ever made.

What might it look like for someone to have this kind of faith? How might this type of faith counteract fear and panic? How would this kind of faith impact the culture around us?

4) Read Hebrews 12:1-2.

What stands out to you from these verses? What anecdote do these verses offer to fear and panic? What do you think it means to fix your eyes on Jesus?

5) Read John 19:30. Pastor Tom described Jesus’ words, “It is finished!” as a new reality for anyone who will trust in Him. “The new reality is that nothing that happens will ever be able to cut you off from God’s love and God’s presence in your life... No matter what comes, those who believe will not face it alone.”

How might knowing this reality impact the way you live? How might this be good news if you don’t yet know Jesus?

6) Read Matthew 28:1-8. What is happening in these verses? What choice did Mary have in these verses? How do these verses challenge us to believe?

7) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

Biblical faith is a leap, but it is not a leap in the dark...There is just enough evidence to make faith possible, but not enough to make it mandatory.

What are some other areas, other than trusting in Jesus, where we demonstrate faith? What value do you see in putting faith in Christ? What makes faith like this challenging?

8) Read Romans 8:11

If you already know Jesus, what evidence can you see of Christ's Spirit living in you? How has God given you life? How has God replaced fear and panic with something else? If you don't follow Jesus, what things would you hope following God might change for you?

Next Steps:

If you are looking for a God to take all your problems away, that isn't Jesus.

If you are looking for guaranteed protection from pandemics, disease, loss, emotional battles, relational trauma or dram, that isn't Jesus.

If you are looking for some religious code you can follow to make sure you and everybody you love will never hurt or experience pain, that isn't Jesus.

Don't buy into him if that is what you're looking for. It won't work.

But if you are looking to follow someone who laid down his life for you,

If you are looking for someone to live in you

If you are looking for resurrection, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead,

If you are looking for a promised companion who will never leave you or forsake you,

If you are looking for someone to walk through the battle,

If you are looking for someone to heal what is broken,

If you are looking for someone to redeem what is dirty,

If you are looking for someone to follow

Then look to Easter. There is a rustling in the tomb and resurrection power has come to earth. And that same power is present now.

It is your choice. You believe in Jesus, or you believe in anything.

Take a few minutes to talk as a group as the kinds of things you hope Jesus will change in your life. How have you seen Jesus do the things on the second list in your life? If you have never trusted Jesus, what might it look like for you to choose to believe in him today?

Take some time to pray as a group, thanking God for what he has done for you and asking for him to work in the lives of people following him for the first time this weekend.