

Easter

**Good News Fit for a King . . .
and for You!**

Acts 26

Sunday, April 16, 2017

3. The Resurrection of Jesus brings together

DIVERSE people into a FORGIVEN FAMILY. (Acts 26:18)

- The resurrection proves the death of Jesus accomplished our forgiveness. (1 Cor. 15:14-19)
- The fact that God's salvation was for people from every nation, tribe and tongue was revolutionary to religious Jews.

4. The Resurrection is TRUE and RATIONAL. (Acts 26:25-26)

- Paul claims the facts of the resurrection were verifiable.
- Paul argues that there are rational reasons to believe.

(Please pick up your free copy of The Reality of the Resurrection by Tim Keller at the Welcome Tent after the service for a helpful collection of historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.)

5. The Resurrection of Jesus invites a

PERSONAL RESPONSE. (Acts 26:18, 20, 27-29)

- A Christian is something you become. Even Agrippa clearly understands this!
- Repentance is turning from sin and self-reliance to God and trusting that the death and resurrection of Jesus is God's salvation for you.

The book of Acts tells the story of how the first followers of Jesus took the good news of the resurrection of Jesus far and wide across the Roman Empire. In Acts 26, the Apostle Paul stands before King Agrippa as a prisoner, but boldly proclaims to him the resurrection. This is good news fit for a king . . . and for us . . .

1. The Resurrection of Jesus is the answer to a universal HUMAN HOPE. (Acts 26:6-8)

- For what does your heart hope?

If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.

— C.S. Lewis

2. The Resurrection of Jesus gives the power to live a BOLD, FREE life of HOPE. (Acts 26:2-23)

- What happens when resurrection hope dawns on a soul?
- The transformation of Paul is extraordinary and compelling.

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A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS: *Here at Grace, we believe we don't follow Jesus alone, but together. Growth Groups are groups of 6-12 people who meet together weekly to care for one another, study and apply God's Word, and pray together. Each week we provide a guide like this for the thriving of our 56 Growth Groups . . .*

Connecting & Caring Together (about 20 min.)

Growth Groups are about living a life of faith in Jesus TOGETHER. Be sure to share highs and lows from the week past and hopes and challenges as you face the week ahead.

Grappling with God's Word Together (about 20 - 30 min.)

1. Read Acts 26 together as a group. How did you come under God's Word in the text/message on Easter Sunday? What strikes you in Paul's defense before Agrippa?
2. Is Paul defending his innocence? Is Paul sharing the Gospel? Or is Paul doing both? What is Paul's highest end? (Look carefully, because I think he states it in the text!)

3. How is this setting described in Acts 25:23? In contrast, what are words you would use to describe Paul's manner and content of speech? Does he sound like a man who's been confined for 2 years?
4. From the outline, review the 5 things Paul tells about the resurrection of Jesus in his message and make sure you can support them from the text of Acts 26. Which of these means the most to you and why?
5. Why do you believe the resurrection of Jesus? Because of the historical evidence or because of your experience or because of both? Could you make a case for the resurrection of Jesus to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus or believe the resurrection?
6. What are some principles we can learn from Paul's example in sharing his faith?

Praying Together (about 20 min.)

As you share and pray for one another's needs and requests, pray also by name for those you know who don't yet know and trust Jesus. Pray for your opportunities and boldness to share.