

# EVERYTHING

## THE GOSPEL CHANGES

**1** Youth Ministry

April 20, 2014

### Lesson: Happy Resurrection Sunday!

This week, we continued our series called “The Gospel Changes Everything” as we looked at the very first Easter morning, from the Disciples point of view, and examined what it would have been like to experience the resurrection of Jesus first hand.

We began by reviewing what we’ve been learning about the Gospel and how it changes our lives once we choose to follow Jesus. We then talked about surprises and concluded that surprises are basically when you believe one thing will happen but then something else happens. We said it was all about expectations. When you expect one thing to happen but then something else happens, you are surprised.

We talked about expectations concerning the very first Easter morning while still imagining ourselves in that time with the Disciples. We said that if we were there, we probably would not have expected the resurrection either, nobody expected it, not even the Disciples expected Jesus to be resurrected on the third day just as he said he would be.

We discussed how the Disciples had spent literally all of their time with Jesus for a couple of years and they experienced many, many unexpected moments during that time. We took a look at several of these moments, imagining that we were there, as the stories were read. The first story that we looked at was when Jesus calmed the storm in **Mark 4:35-40**. We said that the Disciples’ expectation was that they were all going to die and Jesus didn’t seem to care. Jesus had faith that they would safely reach their destination no matter what happened in between. As a matter of fact, he was so at peace in his faith that he took a nap. We said that Jesus was teaching us to have HIS kind of faith, that nothing is impossible with God, to expect miracles, to expect the unexpected and to not depend on your own senses or what the world shows you.

The next story was about Jesus feeding the five thousand in **John 6:5-13**. We said that Jesus asked Philip how they were going to feed all the people to see if Philip had learned to have faith that God will provide what they need. Philip’s expectation was that there was just no way they could feed them all with what little they had. Jesus is teaching that faith in God is expecting that it WILL happen and he thanks God for providing the food as if it has already happened because his faith says that it will happen. He is also teaching that when we bring what little we do have to God, he will take care of the rest.

Our last story was the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in **John 11**. The Disciples’ first expectation, when Jesus said they were returning to Judea, was that they would all be killed. Jesus not only expected to NOT be killed but to raise Lazarus from the dead. He was even glad that he was not there to keep him from dying so that his Disciples may see and believe the glory of God and have faith. He even purposely waited to return so that Lazarus would be dead for four days or one day longer than he would soon be dead. He was met by Mary and Martha who both told him that if he had come sooner their brother would not have died. Everyone seemed to believe that Jesus could have saved Lazarus BEFORE he died but nobody thought for even a second that there was anything that Jesus could do now. Jesus is preparing them for what he is about to go through and to have faith that nothing is impossible with God. He tells them all they have to do is believe and they will see the glory of God. Jesus again thanks God and then, with authority, tells Lazarus to “come out”, which of course he does. God can do what the world says is impossible.

We then jumped ahead to that very first Easter morning. Jesus had repeatedly given his Disciples a play-by-play description of exactly what was going to happen when they got to Jerusalem and they witnessed everything happen exactly the way he said it would yet when Jesus died they all expected it was over and Jesus was gone. They never expected him to be resurrected.

Then, Sunday morning, in **John 20**, when Mary arrived at the now empty tomb, her assumption was that somebody took the body. She actually saw Jesus standing there and even talked to him yet still did not realize it was Jesus because her expectation was that he was dead. We said that this shows how our worldly expectations can blind us from the truth even when it is right in front of us.

The Disciples all finally see Jesus and finally believe and Jesus just tells them what he’s been trying to get them to understand the whole time, “**stop doubting and believe**”. He tells them that those who have not seen yet still believe are blessed. We said that those who have faith and believe without seeing, touching or hearing and believe despite what the world tells them are us and that we are the one’s Jesus is talking about being blessed in **John 20:29**.

Jesus said, in **John 11:25-26**, “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.” Through the power of the Gospel, we can all have that same faith as Jesus, live in that same peace with the same authority and we can always expect what would otherwise be unexpected.