

Sunday morning, April 8, 2007

Battling the Unbelief of Easter

Psalm 16:10

because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Matthew 16:4

A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

1 Corinthians 15:3-7

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles,

Luke 24:1-9

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸Then they remembered his words. ⁹When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

Part 1: Just Add Spice?

A. Whatever It Takes

1. The tendency of mankind has always been to add spice to the _____
_____ in our lives.

† Choosing to add spice is failing to believe the _____ of
God.

2. Spices make bad things _____ for awhile.

B. Taking Hold of the Promises

1. Easter reminds us that God is a _____.

† The pain in life will either draw you to the spice rack or the
_____.

2. God's promises have the power not to make bad things _____
but to make all things _____.

Romans 8:9-11

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

3. Claiming God's promises must include _____ to his _____.

† _____ occurs when we quit bringing spices to the tomb and start bringing God's promises.

Walking through God's Promises

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Psalms 84:10-12

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. ¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless. ¹²O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Part 2: Just Add Water?

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

What you need to know in order to fill the emptiness.

1. God _____ you.
2. God gave his _____ for you.
3. You choose to _____ in him.

† Claiming God's promise for you is about "believing _____" vs. "believing _____."