

Sermon Notes – April 5, 2015
“The Fairy Tale Ending – That’s True”
Mark 15:42 - 16:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 16-20
Pastor Bill Hoffman

Setting aside your thoughts about the trustworthiness of the sources, which of these statements makes better sense to you:

- “If it makes you happy, does it really matter if it’s true?” (*South Park* creator, Matt Stone, on God and religious belief)
- “If Christ is not raised, your faith is futile.” (Apostle Paul on Jesus’ resurrection)

Key facts upon which the claim Jesus was raised is based:

- After being crucified, Jesus was buried in a tomb.
- The Sunday following the crucifixion, the tomb was empty.
- On multiple occasions and under various circumstances people claimed to have seen Jesus alive after he was dead.
- Jesus’ original disciples believed that he was risen from the dead despite being predisposed not to believe and suffering greatly for so believing.

With the above passages as a starting point, look up some of the New Testament’s references to the statements above. For a further summary of historians’ analysis of the above facts, see William Lane Craig’s brief article, “The Resurrection of Jesus” at www.reasonablefaith.org/the-resurrection-of-jesus.

Some ways Jesus resurrection matters:

- Shows that his death really did atone for sins.
- Legitimizes Jesus’ and the Apostles’ teachings.
- Is evidence for the conviction that physical death doesn’t end life.
- Shows that a life following Jesus is greatly meaningful.

Responding to the claim that Jesus is risen:

- If today you do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead what is the basis for your lack of belief?
- How thoroughly have you examined the reasons why Christians make this astounding claim?

If today you do believe this foundational claim spend some time:

- Rejoicing in some of the wonderful implications of Jesus’ being raised.
- Considering one way in which your life today might clearly reflect that you are a follower of Jesus.