

April 12, 2020

# Scott's Thoughts



On the third day!  
*“Then the other  
disciple, who had  
reached the tomb first,  
also went in, and he saw  
and believed; for as yet  
they did not understand  
the Scripture, that he  
must rise from the dead.*

*Then the disciples went  
back to their homes.”* (John 20:8–10, ESV)

Even though Jesus talked to them about his resurrection, they “as yet” had not understood. I wonder if the world today understands its full meaning? Over the last two weeks I have been racking my brain about what to preach on Easter Sunday. I really hope to bring a message of comfort and encouragement that will help all to deal with this unusual year.

To many, Easter is nothing more than a day that involves eggs, church and a trip to a family gathering. None of those are bad, but I would hope that our thoughts of God would go much deeper than that. Like the disciples, we need to let the reality of the real meaning of this historical event sink into our lives. As Christians, we are accustomed to gathering together every Sunday. Maybe we have lost the real reason for gathering together. Many view attending Sunday services as optional while others make it a Law that you have to be present every Sunday.

The gathering or assembly of Christians has a long history. Many think it is rooted in the Old Testament Passover. The Passover was given as a reminder of God’s mercy and goodness. A reminder because we tend to forget. What we call the Lord’s Supper or Communion was instituted in

an upper room on Passover in the first century. The remembrance of this presentation by Jesus is not because of the Passover, but because of the resurrection on the third day.

The Passover was a remembrance of God rescuing the Israelites from Slavery. The Lord’s Supper was shared, by First Century believers, on every first day of the week as remembrance of Jesus Christ raising from the dead. 21st Century Christians still gather on the first day of the week to share in the celebration of His resurrection. The world comes together once a year for Easter Sunday to celebrate the day Christ rose.

However, celebrating Christ’s resurrection this year is different. This year we are at war! We are fighting a battle against an unseen foe. I still do all I can every first day of the week to remember the incredible sacrifice Jesus made. His overcoming the grave results in my salvation. This year I cannot gather with like-minded people because of the restrictions (valid restrictions) now in place. We will be at home. This will pass and I’ll be able to hug my spiritual family one again. In the mean time, I will encourage everyone to use, phone, text, social media, every way available to stay in touch and faithful until safety concerns allow us to gather one again.

Jesus is alive and is working on behalf of all mankind until that great day. *“and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”* (Hebrews 12:24, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott