TWO SIDES TO EVERY STORY: DEATH VS. LIFE

Pastor Derek Sanford

March 27, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. As you think about last week’s sermon, what one thing do you particularly remember?
2. Derek asked “What is one word that describes your life right now?” How did you answer that? How has your faith journey changed the way you describe yourself?
3. **Read John 19:31-42** Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were both prominent men. What might it have cost them to follow Jesus? What does it cost you?
4. Derek’s Big Idea**: New life is only possible, rebirth is only possible, when we first die to sin and die to self.** What does this mean? How do you die to self?
5. **Read John20:1-16**. Jesus appeared first to Mary because she was looking for Him. Why did Mary stay while the others went home? Read **Hebrews 11:6** and discuss what it means to seek Him.
6. Derek cited three evidences for the historical reliability of the Bible: (1) The gospels were written too close to the actual events to be myths. (2) The gospels are too counterproductive in their details to be myths. (3) The events of the gospels made too big an impact to be myths. Discuss how these evidences can help overcome the doubts of others (or yourself) about the truth of the Bible.
7. Why is it so important that Jesus was resurrected? How does that change everything? (*Jesus is who He said He was; I have to make a decision about this truth; New life is available to me*)
8. Derek said, “New life only takes a little faith. You don’t need a really big faith, you need a really big God.” How have you seen God use your tiny faith and first steps of obedience to create change?
9. Easter shows us how the worst moment in history became the greatest moment when God invaded it. God moved it from death to life. Has God written a resurrection story in your life? Share with your group.
10. Application: Is there some area right now where God wants to move you from death to life? Be bold to share with your group and ask them to pray for you.
11. Challenge: We were challenged to invite people to church for Easter. Share what your experience was with that. Continue to pray for and invite those around you. As you pray and share your faith, ANY day can be resurrection day for someone.

**Prayer Thought**: Resurrected Jesus, thank you that you came to change our darkness to light and our death to life. We seek you and, like Paul, we pray that we may know You and the power of Your resurrection and may share Your sufferings, becoming like You in death, that by any means possible we may attain the resurrection from the dead. Amen.

**Verse to Remember:** “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”**Colossians3:3**