SERMON NOTES & LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

REAL. Mat 11:1-6, Curt Brunk, 4.4.10

Jesus' resurrection – the one fact about which every person who knows of Jesus has to decide

If it is Real, then so too:

That we have all made decisions to separate ourselves from God – some willfully so, some simply deciding to not follow the still small voice of conscience

So God came to us, as one of us, to take all the consequences of all our decisions upon Himself – which killed Him

He did this so that He could bury every consequence, every decisions, in the grave, forever

Then He left them behind, and rose clean & new

He invites all who want, to join Him in this new life

If we say "yes" to Him He brings us into His intimate presence as we join Jesus in His ascent back to God

Shroud of Turin

A relatively minor evidence, but still…

"Real Face of Jesus" on History Channel

Debunks all arguments that Shroud is not real: carbon 14 date, modern replication by Italian, etc.

Image is totally consistent with all Gospel's say

Photo negative brings out how much detail there really is

Has 3 Dimensional information unlike any painting or other man made image

Scientists can tell us definitively what it is not, they just cannot tell us what it is. Unlike anything else we've ever known.

Faith is doubt overcome by something Real.

Mary doubted Disciples too, John the Baptist:

John was in prison, for a year, has "moment"…?

Asks Jesus "are you the one?" Jesus doesn't say yes, says you decide ,here's facts/evidence

John knows it's Real

So too, billions of others who've experienced what's Real.

NEXT WEEK: Real.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What have been your most recent conversations about the authenticity of the Resurrection? How do you respond to the clips Curt presented about the Shroud of Turin? What would make people of science with no leaning toward faith so interested in this ancient cloth?
2. As you read through John the Baptizer's question in v3 of Matt 11:1- 6; how do his words strike you? What does his thinking & emotional state seem to be? What place does genuine doubt and inquiry play in a Christian's life? How have you seen this?
3. Curt suggested that John had been in prison for about a year, waiting for His next place of assignment in the Kingdom or to be freed. How does the pain of waiting & enduring seem to impact our faith? What emphasis in Jesus' answer to John (vv. 4- 6) is helpful for us when we are "waiting" or feel isolated from usefulness? How does this insight serve you in the present?
4. Take time to read through the Real booklet you received today. Jot down your impressions. What particular stories of life change caught your intention? How might you position yourself to be used by the Lord to bring transformation to folks this week? What is God saying to you about this opportunity?

TODAY'S OPPORTUNITY: (Remember to watch for God to move this week and tell us your testimony!)

I will pray for _____ to come to Jesus