



SERIES OVERVIEW

"Death and Resurrection"

Preacher: Pastor Eugene Kim

November 25, 2018

[Series Sermon Recordings](#)

[Discipleship Resources](#)

SUGGESTED SUPPLIES

Note cards (or paper) and pens.

QUESTIONS?

Email Abby

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW TO USE: *The three sections below (opening, sermon content questions, and application) represent the three connections we emphasize at Highrock: connecting to **God's People**, connecting to **God Personally** and connecting to **God's Purposes**. Select at least one question from each section or create questions that are more specific to your group.*

WEEKLY CHECK IN

Use a few minutes at the beginning of your time to follow up on any action items shared from last week. Was there a **next step or application** challenge that they took on this past week? What did they learn about themselves and following Jesus?

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Choose ONE of these that fits your group, or modify it so that it will fit your group better. These can make great **opening questions** or **ending questions**. If you have had a really in-depth conversation, ending on a light note can help transition to concluding your time Together on a less intense question.

1. How was death discussed (or not discussed) in the context you grew up in? What are some ways you notice the culture you are in now avoids the reality of death as a part of life?

SERMON QUESTIONS

Use a **couple of the questions** below or make up your own. You can always begin with: "Do you have any questions about what you heard in the sermon this week?" Or, "What stood out to you from the Pastor's sermon?"

1. Pastor Eugene shared about two images of Jesus, one as crucified on the cross and the other as a triumphant king. When you think about the picture of Jesus which comes to mind, which is most prevalent?
 - a. How does the image of Jesus on the cross impact our view of god? Our preconceptions of God?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** "But what Jesus does is very different from what Judas was hoping for. (Luke 22:51) Jesus says, "No more of this." And he heals the servant's ear. Jesus was arrested, mocked, and beaten. And

he did nothing. They interrogated him, and he said nothing. Like Isaiah prophesied, **(Isaiah 53:7)** “he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” The people who just days ago were hailing him as the Messiah turned on him. He carried a cross. They crucified him, and he died.”

2. Pastor Eugene said, “Loving our lives isn’t bad. It’s just not enough.” Christ calls us to more, to a life that is self-giving. When are you most present to others? When do you have a sense of purpose in your life?
 - a. How do you think your responses to these questions connect to what Jesus says about offering up our lives to Jesus in John 12:26, “Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be”?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “The time when I was most concerned about my own image was when I felt most self-conscious and insecure. It turns out, Jesus knew what he was talking about. But when I was finally able to surrender myself, I found peace. And I found that when I die to my own ego, I am most able to love. When I let go of my own agendas, I am most able to be present with others.”
3. Read the sermon reference below and then discuss the following questions:
 - a. What is the pattern of death to life that Jesus teaches us? How can this be a model for you to follow?
 - b. Where do you see places in your life that need transformation by going through the pattern of death to life?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24). So Jesus, you want us to build you a farm? It seems Jesus’ idea of glory might be a little different. What is he talking about? Jesus is using an example from the natural order to illustrate a deep spiritual truth. That death doesn’t have to be the end. It can actually be the beginning of new life. If a seed thinks of itself as only a seed, it will simply remain a seed and die. But if the seed dies to its small life as a seed and goes into the ground, it moves onto its second life as a stalk of wheat and lives, and even produces more seeds and more abundant life! Jesus is pointing to a pattern that can be observed all throughout creation. That death isn’t always final.”
4. Pastor Eugene says that offering up ourselves to Christ takes time. In what ways do you see Christ bringing transformation in your life that is a long term process? Or, what is a way that Christ is asking something from you that might take time?
5. The patterns we set in our lives can also end up dictating what we expect from our spiritual journeys. How might approaching your walk with God in the way Pastor Eugene discusses below necessitate a new posture or recalibration of what “success” looks like? How might a new approach to your spiritual life then help re-frame your approach to how you live (or die to yourself) in all the other areas?
 - a. Imagine that your value/ worth/ identity is no longer tied to what you produce, accomplish, do etc. What does this kind of freedom/ open hands look like for you?
 - i. **Sermon Reference:** “Authentic spiritual journey is almost never about winning, accomplishing, doing, and getting more. The journey to eternal life is almost always about denying ourselves, surrendering, and letting go. The reason we fear losing this life is because we believe it’s the only one we have, which is why we want to hold onto it so much. If I lay down my life, my power, my preferences, or my privilege, what will I have left? Well, what you’ll have left is open hands, which is a great place to start!”
6. Pastor Eugene shared some practical areas which will inherently prompt us to have to die to ourselves in order that we may serve Christ and others, servanthood, hospitality, generosity, humility, love and compassion. Is there one area you find that is particularly hard to practice in your life? Why might that be? What would it look like to begin to practice that area?

APPLICATION/S

1. Are there places in your life that you keep closed off for yourself? Maybe your home or your free time? How might God be inviting you to die to yourself in order to be a blessing to someone?

- a. **Sermon Reference:** *“Second, it would look like hospitality. Showing hospitality to friends or people you like doesn’t require that much death. It requires death to make time and space to welcome someone different from you.”*
2. Pastor Eugene names the reality that many times we can feel stuck or desire to grow but can seem to push past some barrier. Read the quote below, does this resonate with you? Is there something in your life which you have been making an idol of or holding on to? Begin by naming whatever it is and bringing it before God. What might it look like to have new life in that area?
- a. **Sermon Reference:** *“Many of us know the Christian life is supposed to be full of joy, peace, and transformation. But maybe we feel like we’ve been stuck for a while. It might be that there’s something in particular we need to die to, in order to move forward. For some of us, it might be our need for the approval of others. Or our need for comfort, security, or success. Or our need to be right and win. Or our need for our lives to be a certain way. Or perhaps there’s unforgiveness or bitterness that we’re holding on to. Or a sin or addiction in our lives we need to break. What in you might need to die in order for you to live your true life in Christ?”*

CLOSING

Summarize the key points of your discussion and encourage people to **share one action step** they could take during the next week based on what they have shared. **Take time to pray together.** Write those down and start next week by checking in with how it went, or better yet, check in during the week!

RESOURCES

SERMON SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

John 12: 23- 28

Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

SCRIPTURE STUDY: 5Cs

If you are interested in studying the scripture more deeply, one way to study scripture is through using the 5 Cs. Read through the passage and move through each C. The goal is not to move through them quickly but to really consider each section. If you wanted to study the passage together, you, as the leader should take some time beforehand to complete the Cs and it can be helpful to have group members come prepared with the first 3 already considered. Then, as a group you can briefly talk over some of the points and then have a longer conversation about curiosities and conclusions. This study tool will be posted within all of the discussion questions.

- **Context:** What is the literary context of the passage? What comes before? After? Context within whole book? Relation to main idea of section, book, testament, whole Bible?
- **Christ:** How is Jesus revealed here? If in OT, prefiguration, typology, prophesy, implications for Christ's person and work? How is he needed, anticipated, fulfilled?
- **Crux:** What is the main idea? Try and find a section of the text that states it and have reasons for why that is the main idea? How do the other points support it?

- **Curiosities:** What is surprising about this text? Controversial? Mysterious? Shocking?
- **Conclusions:** What are the implications for our lives? Application? How do we think, feel, and act in light of this text?