

**The Story Series
Opened
Newport News
11/18/2023**

Opening

-I have some questions that may call into question the unity and harmony of our church...

- > coke or pepsi?
- > SB or DD coffee?
- > DD or KK doughnuts?
- > Marvel or DC comics?

-Let's go back to Coke or Pepsi... **what do you do if you don't have a proper bottle opener?**

-(wait until after participation moment)

- 1. Edge of a table**
- 2. Scissors**
- 3. Belt buckle**
- 4. Wedding ring**
- 5. Dollar bill**
- 6. Door latch**
- 7. Rubber band**
- 8. Another bottle**
- 9. Spoon**
- 10. Lighter**

-What would happen if we stopped reading the Bible as just an accurate history of what has happened and start reading it as a collection of promises from God to us for today!

-Well, as we read in the story of Jesus' resurrection, we find Him opening some things that I believe are more than history...they are promises for how He intends to open things still today!

Introduction

-(promote resource)

10/7 - session #1
10/14 - session #22
10/21 - session #23
10/28 - session #24
11/4 - session #25
11/11 - session #26
11/18 - session #27
11/25 - session #28

-Tonight's three key texts...

-Mark 16:3

-Luke 24:31

-Luke 24:45

Opened Tomb

-read from The Story

- Explain why Sabbath is mentioned
- They had spices, not a change of clothes
- Matthew 17:22-23 (the promise)
- Explain how stone was engineered
- Matthew 16:3 (ref)

-There are times in our lives when God compels us to move towards the improbable!

>"I'm so glad God is never going to ask us to do that!"

>"Well Fred, I think it's going to take a miracle for this church to make it."

-The stone wasn't rolled away so Jesus could get out...it was so they could get in!

-Whatever you feel compelled to move towards, it isn't about your inevitable success or comfort but rather building a testimony that will point others to Jesus!

Opened Eyes

-read from The Story

- “our women” (joke here...) means they were close to Jesus
- prophet (cultural context), powerful in word and deed (compare to OT which is why we may forget His ministry was normalized)
- listen to what they had been told that morning!
- Why wouldn't they have stayed around if only out of curiosity?

-Are you willing to walk with people who challenge your ideas and conclusions?

-Acts 15:36-41 (ref Paul and Barnabas' argument)

-2000 years later we still suffer from the same problem, **allowing conflict to fracture relationships instead of building them!**

-Luke 24:31 (Emmaus reference again)

-(talk about small group Wednesday and Peter with sword...)

-Holy Spirit on Thursday: “So is the angry mob!”

-The angry mob in Gethsemane was so deceived by it's own echo chamber that they couldn't recognize God in front of them! (preach here some)

Opened Minds

-read from The Story

- Mary and the ladies...
- Peter and John...
- Cleopas and his friend...
- They were all together again...

-How much of the Bible are you failing to understand because you are neglecting making time for the people following Jesus with you?

-Luke 24:45 (**build the context!!!!**)

-Will Jesus open your mind to the Scriptures when you are alone? Of course He will! Are there revelations that are only going to happen in setting like tonight? You better believe it!

Band

-The plan: two weeks to talk about it, December to adjust to it, January hard pivot!

-Have you ever stopped to consider that your testimony, your story of Jesus and you, is going to unlock something revelatory for someone else...and their story for you!

-Hebrews 11:1

Close