

Message Series: Easter: Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Message Title: Upon Him 1 + 2

Key Scripture:

Isaiah 53, Luke 15:1-7

Other Scriptures: 1 Peter 2:23-24, Psalm 100:3, John 10:3b

Theme

Isaiah is foundational for us this year at Renewal. One of the Servant Songs that Isaiah writes describes what Jesus goes through on the cross in vivid detail. This Easter we make Isaiah 53 our reflection, that all was laid UPON HIM, as he carried the sin of the world. And, we make it our celebration, as UPON HIM is our salvation.

Message Summary

- I. Many of us walk through daily living as if the world is upon our shoulders. Where do we get that idea from? We must reflect upon the fact it was our sin that put Jesus on the cross and our sin is what separates us from God. When it comes to Easter, by his sacrifice, sin and salvation are no longer on you, but all upon him.**
- II. A lost sheep is clearly symbolic of each of our lives before Jesus becomes our Saviour. Likewise, a shepherd was a metaphor of a leader who looks after others. As the metaphors combine, they present us something greater about Jesus. Jesus tells a parable to compare what others would do with what he will do. Jesus pays the highest price for search and rescue, but it so we can belong and have life. Resurrection leads to a full life ,and Jesus, like the shepherd, goes first. Through Jesus, we are not merely alive, but we now get to belong and live.**

Whole Group Questions

- Think & Talk: What are the images of Isaiah 53 that speak most to you?**
- What about the images of sheep and shepherd, flock and being lost?**

How does applying this message affect our:

Fellowship – experiencing healthy relationships with other people

Think of the image of a shepherd carrying home a sheep on his shoulders. And see that as the picture of you and Jesus. What are you now a part of?

Discipleship – growing in Christ both cognitively and experientially

Our greatest success cannot lift us higher, than where Jesus has lifted us. Nor, our greatest struggle, or failure cannot pull us down from where Jesus has lifted us.

How do you live in following him as a result?

Jesus, by his death on the cross, took upon himself, both our obligation to perfectly obey God's law, and get it all right, and the liability, for failing to do so. His sinless life satisfies the first, his sacrificial death cancels the latter. Same question!

Ministry – Discovering and using our God-given gifts and abilities

Our words should be less "You are lost!" "What are you gonna do about it?" And more, "You have somewhere to belong and someone you belong to" "Jesus has risen from the dead. Let Jesus carry you home."

How do we serve others in this regard as part of the flock?

Evangelism – Reaching out and sharing the love of Christ with unbelievers

Religion says, "Earn your life." Secular thinking says, "Create and choose your life."

Jesus says, "Lose your life and you will gain it."

How does this change your approach to witness to others?

Worship – Surrendering our heart and life to Christ on an ongoing basis

You do not have to live your life burdened by your sin, or crushed because you feel like there is little progress. Jesus sacrifice and love was never based upon your performance, or your promises to do much better. He took it all UPON HIM.

We will always have reason to praise God and live a full life. Everyone who comes to Jesus, is rejoiced over. How much more valuable is a person than a sheep?

What a reason to praise and worship Jesus this Easter!