



Sunday, April 24, 2011

Pastor Joseph Ardayfio

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EASTER SUNDAY 2011

IN WHOM DO YOU PUT YOUR TRUST

📖 **SCRIPTURE:** 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-7; JOHN 20:1-29

key theme: While hope and reason are vital components in determining in whom to put our trust, we ultimately have to respond in faith to the evidence that is presented to us.

- 1) **Hope, Reason and Faith work together in the life of a believer.**
 - a. Hope is a confident expectation. Biblical hope is not giving our hope to the wind but placing our hope in the author and the finisher of our faith.
 - b. To reason is to form conclusions, judgments, or inferences from facts or premises and to give a rational ground or motive to believe and trust. For a Christian, reason is a good thing when used properly, but can limit us when God is doing something bigger/greater than our ability to comprehend.
 - c. Faith is what catapults us to a place of trust. Now faith is the substance of things *hoped* for, the *evidence* [reasoning] of things not yet seen. If we are ever going to experience anything greater than our past encounters, we will have to exercise a level of faith in things not yet seen.
- 2) **Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, the beloved disciple and other disciples used hope, reason + faith to determine in whom they would put their trust.**
 - a. While each of the resurrection witnesses needed various levels of evidence to believe, they all had a hope that Christ was the Messiah, reasons to trust that Christ had risen from the dead and faith to make Christ their refuge and Savior.
- 3) **The disciple Thomas needed reason in order to believe + trust in the risen Savior but eventually he had to respond in faith to that belief.**
 - a. Desiring a reasonable basis for our faith is not a problem but we must respond in faith to the evidence/reason that God presents to us.
 - b. We need to examine if there are areas in our lives in which, like Thomas, we need to *stop doubting and believe*.
 - c. Just because we don't have a complete understanding of everything in this world, doesn't mean that we can't have a meaningful understanding of the world and put our faith in what Christ has revealed about His creation.

Mars Hill Fellowship Church is a new gathering of believers in the Metro Boston area. We come from a variety of cultures, ages, educational backgrounds, and family histories, but we share the common testimony of being transformed by God's everlasting love. We are living witnesses that the gospel is real and has the power to redeem all people. We strive to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Joseph + Ophelia Ardayfio | Lead Pastors
Mailing Address | 1085 Commonwealth Ave, Suite #380, Boston, Massachusetts 02215
Main Office | 617.459.4001 Email | info@marshillfellowship.info Web | www.marshillfellowship.com
Twitter | @pastorjoseph / @marshillboston / @marshillyp