

Easter Sunday

Who is telling the truth?

- How can you tell whether someone is telling the truth?
 - because what they say comes to pass!
 - there will be 1000+ people at church tonight....
 - the moon is made of cheese
 - there are three creme eggs hidden around the church...
- Was I telling the truth or making things up?
 - how did you find out?
- Jesus said he'd conquer death:
 - *Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." (Luke 18:31-33)*
 - how would his disciples know it was true?

Recap narrative from acetates

- dead after cross
 - women at tomb / angels
 - women see Jesus
 - two disciples on Emmaus Road meet Jesus... recognise him
 - he meets the 11 in a locked room
 - he meets the disciples by the sea of Galilee
- How did his disciples know the claim back in Luke 18 was true?

Who won the victory?

- *Kids should have been on to their colouring just after the reading*
- Jesus said he'd rise from the dead - **but what significance does it have?**
 - at its core, resurrection is a declaration of **victory**
 - see acetate of the colouring the children are doing...
 - Jesus whole life and ministry geared to great contest on the Cross
 - wrestling Satan, submitting to his Father's will, winning our freedom
 - the resurrection is in large part a declaration of victory achieved on the Cross
- Victory can be won, but remain hidden - rare
- More often victory can be declared but not won! - see Saddam's press guy...!
- But a real victory has implications!
- Go back to people's memories of WW2:
 - who was where when...
 - what was it like when Victory Europe was declared?
 - looking for: no more **fear, blackouts, evacuation & evacuees, travel restrictions, roads without signposts, rationing (eventually!!), etc!**
 - once victory is declared things change...

Things have changed for us in light of Christ's victory:

- no more fear
- can see clearly direction and purpose of life - **for me to live is Christ, to die is gain** (Philippians 1:21)
- soon we will no longer be evacuees, in a strange land, but will be home in heaven!
- soon too the "rationing" of a meagre life that we live here will be gone, replaced with the bounty of heaven!