

“WELL, DUH!”

Pastor Mike Corwin

EASTER SUNDAY

TEXT: JOHN 20:11-18

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 20:1-10

I – WELL, DUH!:

I first learned the word when my granddaughter Makenzie was about six years old. As I remember she was at our house to proudly show us the first tooth she had ever lost. She had it all wrapped up in a piece of tissue in a little box and was proudly displaying it for anyone who would look. After I admired it, I decided it was time to entrust her with one of the great secrets of life, the kind of secret that I thought Grandfathers were supposed to pass on. I told her if she put it under her pillow that night the tooth fairy would take it and leave some money in its place. It was at that moment she looked up at me with her sweet innocent face and said... ‘WELL, DUH!’ It was like she was saying “HOW STUPID ARE YOU GRANDPA, EVERYONE WHO’S EVER BEEN BORN KNOWS THAT!”

Did you realize that “DUH” is really a recognized word? That you’ll find it in the Webster’s or the Encarta dictionaries. It gives two definitions:

- Humorous expression of stupidity – it’s used jokingly to signify a lack of knowledge or comprehension.
- Response to something already known – used in response to something that’s said that is too obvious to need to be mentioned. Hopefully that’s what my granddaughter meant.

“DUH” has also come to signify those moments when realization of something finally dawns on us. When something that should have been easily understood finally becomes clear or when you finally see something that’s been right in front of your face the whole time. I call that a “DUH MOMENT.”

II – EASTER DUH MOMENTS:

I would share with you that I have some of my most exciting “DUH” moments as I’m reading the Bible. I can look at a passage over and over without understanding it and then one day I’ll look at it again and say “DUH”, that’s what it means, that’s what God’s been trying to get through my thick head.

As I read through the story of the Passion of Jesus this last week, I realized it contained a couple of significant “DUH” moments. Jesus had been traveling around for three years preaching about being the Son of God, sent to save all of them for their sins, but they didn’t get it. He had healed blind men and given them their sight. He had healed people from the disease of Leprosy. He had had old men lame since their birth get up and walk, yet people didn’t get it. He performed miracles such as turning water into wine, walking on water, and raising Lazarus from the dead, and the people still didn’t get it. The truth was right in front of them, and they still didn’t get it.

Jesus was arrested, tried on false charges, convicted, and then crucified and we find that some people finally start to get it. The book of Mark tells the story of the Roman soldier who had watched Jesus be tried, tortured, and nailed to the cross. Upon the death of Jesus, the soldier looks at the body and says “TRULY THIS WAS THE SON OF GOD” ...WELL, DUH! He’d been telling you this all along. You just now got it? Another story is the one we looked at Thursday night as we explored the story of the two criminals who had been crucified with Jesus. As they hung there on their own crosses with Jesus, the one criminal started mocking him with jeers and sarcasm, but the second one had a “DUH” moment. He realized who Jesus was and found his Salvation as Jesus promised he’d be with him in heaven that day.

III – TEXT – JOHN 20:1-10 & 11-18:

As we look this morning at the story of the resurrection, we find that it too is a story full of “DUH” moments. Even the disciples and the closest followers of Jesus didn’t get it yet. He had been telling them along the way that he was going to be killed but that they shouldn’t worry because it was all in the grand plan of God and he would be back, but they didn’t get it, upon his arrest and death they fled, they went into mourning. The story of Easter is a story of the disciples and followers of Jesus finally understanding what He had been telling them, what had been right in front of their noses all along...

After he was crucified Jesus was taken off the cross and wrapped in linen with spices and laid in the tomb. This was all done in a hurry because at dusk the Sabbath would begin. In the beginning of the resurrection story, you heard read this morning, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb before the sun is even up. She and others will finish preparing the body and give it a proper burial on this day. As she arrived, she finds the large stone that sealed the tomb had been rolled open and the body of Jesus was no longer there. She immediately thinks someone has stolen the body and runs to tell the disciples Peter and John about it. They run to the tomb with her and upon looking in they see that the body is gone but the linen cloth the body had been wrapped in and the spices which were wrapped with the body are all still laying there...and it appeared they had been undisturbed, like the body had just disappeared.

Grave robbers didn't do this. They would have taken the cloth with them; they wouldn't have taken the time to unwrap the body. Surely, they wouldn't have left behind all the expensive spices wrapped in the cloth, and even if they had removed the wrappings, they wouldn't have laid them out or folded them up as they were. Then in verses 8& 9 we read:

⁸Then the other disciple also went in, and he saw and believed—⁹for until then they hadn't realized that the Scriptures said he would rise from the dead.

Peter and John had a "DUH" moment. It finally came together and made sense. Now they understood what Jesus had been telling them. He was the Son of God; he had risen from the grave.

In the next part of the resurrection story, we find that Mary Magdalene had one too:

John 20:11 - 18 (NLT)

¹¹Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹²She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³"Why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴She glanced over her shoulder and saw someone standing behind her. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵"Why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." ¹⁶"Mary!" Jesus said. She turned toward him and exclaimed, "Teacher!" ¹⁷"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, my God and your God." ¹⁸Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

Mary still didn't get it. She stays and cries some more. As she looks in there are two angels there, but she is crying so hard she doesn't recognize them. She only knows someone has stolen the body of the teacher she loved so much. As she continues to cry someone comes up behind her and again asks her what's wrong. She thinks this is the gardener, possibly he knows where they've taken the body, so she pleads with him to tell her and says she'll go get it, no questions asked. Jesus then calls her by her name and she recognizes him. This is Mary's "DUH" moment. This woman who has followed Jesus around during his ministry, who has helped finance his travel, who has cared for him and hung on his every word, who stood at the bottom of the cross and watched him die, and is now so terribly upset because his body is missing...this woman now comes to the realization HE'S NOT DEAD – HE HAS RISEN FROM THE GRAVE, just as he said he would. This is the moment she believed.

IV – THE MOST IMPORTANT DUH MOMENT:

It was on this first Easter morning that Mary had the most important “DUH” moment that you can have...she found Jesus! It was at this moment in the doorway to an empty tomb that she realized that Jesus was her Savior, the one foretold by all the prophets through the history of her people.

As she went over again the events of the last few days, she realized that God had sent his own Son to gain us the forgiveness we couldn't get on our own. She realized that as Jesus was arrested, put on trial, tortured, and killed... it was for a reason...the forgiveness of our sins. And this day as she stands at the doorway to the open tomb...as she peers in and sees the missing body with the grave clothes left behind...as she hears the one who she watched die call her name she realizes that he has risen from the dead. He is not dead, he lives! And if he rose from the grave, SO CAN WE! Eternal life is possible. It was at this moment she realized just how much our God truly loves and wants us. Can you imagine how she felt at this incredible moment?

I can. I know this is the most important “DUH” moment anyone can have. I went for years and played church. I knew all about this Jesus (point to head), but I didn't truly know (point to heart) this Jesus. I was a disciple, I went to church every Sunday I could, I read the Bible, I prayed. I even knew the tomb was empty, but that day in August of 1985 when I stopped and looked in, when I took Jesus out of my head and put him in my heart and as the hymn says, “O THE JOY THAT FLOODS MY SOUL.” I had my “DUH” moment, and I've been living it ever since.

V – HAVE YOU HAD YOUR DUH MOMENT:

How about you this Easter morning? Have you had your Duh moment?

- Do you realize Jesus wants you?
- Have you been overcome with the love he offers?
- Have you made it personal?
- Have you fallen down and clung to him like Mary?
- Have you stooped at the door to the tomb and realized Jesus is not there?

If you haven't then let me give you the Good News of Easter: The stone's been rolled away...there is no body in the tomb...he's not dead...HE IS RISEN!!!

And all God's people said... “WELL, DUH!”

AMEN