**15th April 2020 – Pastor Jono**

**Aftershocks**

Matthew 26 - 28

Resurrection Sunday celebrates Jesus’ victory over death! So what difference has it made from the time of Jesus till now? Often after an earthquake, there comes a series of aftershocks which are sometimes even stronger than the earthquake itself. In the same way, what are the aftershocks of Jesus’s resurrection? What does this mean for us?

The shaking brings 4 major shifts:

1. **From *Far to Near* - people would draw close to the Father, Son & Holy Spirit**

When Jesus breathed His last, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. At that moment, the earth shook violently and the skies darkened.

What is so significant about the tearing of the veil, is that it was 60 feet high, 30 feet wide, and an entire handbreadth in thickness! One early Jewish writing states that the veil was so heavy, it took 300 priests to move it. Humanly speaking, it would have been impossible to tear such a veil. It was God himself who ripped the veil of the Holy of Holies in half from top to bottom. In doing so, He declared that man would now come freely to stand in His holy presence. Furthermore, God demonstrated that sin no longer separated Him from man.

Heb 4:16 NLT “*So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God.*

*There we will receive his mercy, and we find grace to help us when we need it most.”*

**Now that we can boldly approach the throne of God, how can we take the full advantage of this freedom, in terms of our relationship with the Father? What do you need to do differently?**

1. **From *Pitiful to Powerful*, from *Victim to Victors* in Christ**

Eph 2:6 NLT *“For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.”*

We are not pitiful; we have the resurrection power of Jesus Christ in us. We are raised, we are *in* Christ, He is in us, and the power then, is in us. This is a shift from helplessness to power. **Have you ever experienced the miracle power of God? If so, share with your group.**

1. ***From Shaky to Stable***

Psalm 62:6 NLT *“He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken.”*

Are we earthquake-resistant? Is there anything in our lives that can be shaken, that can upset us? Do we feel secure in Christ in our everyday life? Is Jesus Christ the solid rock that you have built your life on? Christ is not only the foundation but everything we need to build ourselves with.

Spiritual hunger, much like natural hunger, compels a person to take action. Those who hunger and thirst for God, for His approval, and for His ways will be satisfied.

1. ***From Worship to Mission***

John Piper said, “Mission exists because worship doesn’t.” We worship God, we are overwhelmed, and our desire is to see worship of Jesus everywhere. The love of Jesus, in our worship, is our motive for fulfilling the great commission. (Matt 28:17-18). The Shift is also a shove. From a local Jewish belief to a worldwide movement, Jesus’ death and Resurrection shifted the Earth. Join it! Take the hope of the Resurrection everywhere.

**Questions for discussion**

1. How would you define your current level of spiritual hunger? Has your appetite for the things of God decreased or increased over the past few weeks? What conscious daily choices do you make to create more appetites for the things of God?
2. If you’re a Christian, you are to be Jesus’ representative on the Earth, reflecting His nature and His ways. (The great commission) In what ways do you deliberately give witness to the fact that Jesus is alive in you?