

He is risen

Easter Sunday

April 21, 2019

Text

**Matt 28:1-10 (ESV)* (1) Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. (2) And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. (3) His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. (4) And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. (5) But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. (6) He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. (7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." (8) So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. (9) And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. (10) Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

The proclamation made by an empty tomb

To those who came

- Come see
- They'd seen him hang on a cross
- They'd seen him buried hastily in a borrowed tomb
- They'd come that morning to finish burying him
- They found an empty tomb
- Jesus was not dead - he was alive (note their encounter in the last verse we read)

To the disciples/etc

- Paul defends the resurrection
- **1 Cor 15:3-8 (ESV)* (3) For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, (4) that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, (5) and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (7) Then he*

appeared to James, then to all the apostles. (8) Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- Jesus spent 40 days appearing to his followers

Contrast with others

- Many had been raised from the dead: Lazarus, Widow of Nain's son, Jairus' daughter
- Their life was restored
- Ministry of the Gospel - heal the sick, raise the dead
- **Point:** Temporary - still died
- Jesus rose from the dead - never to die again. First (and only) one to have risen from the dead
- **1 Corinthians 15:20** But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- He had obtained eternal life
- No more sickness, no more death
- Ascended to heaven

Therefore

- There is the possibility of life after death
- An eternal, never ending life
- That's what the empty tomb proclaims

Promises made for an empty tomb

His own

- Just as he said
- Three specific times he pulled the disciples aside and told them
 - ***Mark 8:31 (ESV)*** (31) *And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.*
 - ***Mark 9:30-32 (ESV)*** (30) *They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, (31) for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." (32) But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.*
 - ***Mark 9:32-34 (ESV)*** (32) *But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him. (33) And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" (34) But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.*

Ours

- At the funeral for Lazarus
- See the promise **John 11:25-26 (ESV)* (25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, (26) and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

The point of an empty tomb

- Question to me - and asking everyone "What does it mean to me that Jesus is alive
- Some thoughts on that topic

Jesus death was sacrificial

- Wages of sin is death
- Jesus died - but had not sinned, and rose again
- There remains a credit balance

Death is not the end

- Not to be feared
- There is more

Different perspective on the importance of things

- There is more than this life
- Things that used to be really important are less so - in light of eternity
- Some things are more important in light of eternity

What does it mean to you?

- Take away for our sermon today: what does it mean that Jesus is alive?

Procuring my own empty tomb

- Back to the first time Jesus predicted his death
- **Mark 8:31-36 (ESV)* (31) And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. (32) And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. (33) But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." (34) And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to*

them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

If: Eternal life requires action on our part

- Conditional
- Not everyone will - in fact the Bible refers to a "second death" where those who've rejected Christ's offer of salvation and eternal life are destroyed in a lake of fire
- **Rev 20:11-15 (ESV)* (11) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (14) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
- If you want this - then you must

To have eternal life I must give this life away

- Peter rebukes him for the very thought of surrendering his life
- Makes sense if all we see is this life
- Jesus planned to obtain eternal life *3 days rise again*
- Jesus rebukes Peter and teaches that to have eternal life we give our lives away
- Surrender to his lordship

Closing

- What does the reality of His resurrection mean to you?
- Will your tomb be empty

