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Series: *Holy Week*

Title: *Gardens and Graves*

Text: Genesis 3:8-22; John 19:38-20:18

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Me and “*THE KEYBOARD*” are long-time friends and I’m not referring to the piano. No, I’m talking about the fact that I have spent the vast majority of my life TYPING--beginning with typing class in High School then all the papers I had to write and type in college and then all those papers I had to write and type during the three years of Seminary and then the couple thousand sermons, and funeral meditations, and wedding homilies I have used these fingers to type ever since.

With all those years of typing experience---I am very familiar with the history of “*How to Correct Typing Mistakes.*” For example, I remember the “*old days*” when if you made an error---if you misspelled a word or something---you couldn’t erase the mistake. I can’t tell you how many times I had to retype an entire page because of an error I made in the last sentence.

I remember being thankful when they “solved” this problem by inventing erasable paper---and that worked fairly well---but since this shiny new paper was so easily erasable you had to be very careful with it so as not to accidentally erase something. I mean, the words you typed on that special paper were very “smudgeable.”

Then in the ‘70’s they invented these strips of thin plastic about half an inch wide that had a white chalk substance on one side and you could insert that between the page and the typewriter with the chalk side facing the paper and then retype your error. That white stuff would cover over your mistake allowing you to type over it correctly.

Then, Monkee band member, Michael Nesmith’s mother invented something called *LIQUID PAPER* and it was wonderful. You would just paint over your error. It dried quickly and then you could retype. It came in pretty much any color of paper you would use and I think it made Mr. Nesmith very wealthy---bringing in far more money than his Monkee music.

A few years later they invented self-correcting typewriters where you could just hit a key and it would automatically erase every error with a special ribbon that would lift the ink off the page. We had one of those fancy typewriters in the church office and I’m pretty sure I’m the last person to have used it. It came in handy when filling out marriage licenses--which still can’t be done online. Sadly, you can’t get those special ribbon cartridges anymore so now that amazing typewriter is an amazing paperweight.

Well in the mid-eighties, computers became affordable and popular and they had things called word processors---where you could work on your document on the screen and correct your errors---before your manuscript was printed. Included in those word processing programs was---and still is---my favorite computer function---the “*control Z*” command.

No matter what word processor you were using---be it *WordSTAR* or *WORD PERFECT* or *Microsoft WORD*---you could hit the “*control*” key and the “*Z*” key at the same time---and it reversed what you have typed. It erased ANY error---no matter how big---instantly.

I LOVE that function!

I can’t tell you how many times in how many sermons those two keys have saved the day for me---whether it’s fixing a misspelled word---or one of those times when I accidentally highlighted and deleted an entire paragraph. I never panic when that happens because all I have to do is hit those two keys---and VOILA---the paragraph is back!

Think about it---wouldn’t it be great to have a “*control Z*” tool in life--something to instantly reverse our errors?! You mess up, but no worries, you just “*CONTROL Z*” it and it’s gone. In fact, think for a moment. Imagine with me. What do

you wish you could RE DO---CORRECT---REVERSE---this morning? As you look back over the past 24 hours---or 24 years--- is there something you wish you could “Control Z?”

Well, if the answer is “YES,” you came to the right place, because the point of today’s message is to remind us that on the first Easter Sunday---God “CONTROL-Zed” our greatest “error” and all its implications.

A great way to see this wonderful truth is to look at what the Bible tells us about some gardens and graves found in Genesis chapter 3 and in John chapters 19-20. We don’t have time to read all that Scripture, so put your fingers in Genesis 3 and turn to John 19. Follow along as I read beginning with verse 41 and if able let’s all stand in respect for God’s Word.

John 19:41-42

**41 - At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a GARDEN, and in the GARDEN a new TOMB, in which no one had ever been laid.**

**42 - Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the TOMB was nearby, they laid Jesus there.**

John 20:1-18

**1 - Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.**

**2 - So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!”**

**3 - So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.**

**4 - Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.**

**5 - He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.**

**6 - Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 - as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.**

**8 - Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.**

**9 - (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)**

**10 - Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.**

**11 - Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb**

**12 - and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.**

**13 - They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put Him.”**

**14 - At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.**

**15 - He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking He was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have put Him, and I will get Him.”**

**16 - Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (Which means “Teacher”).**

**17 - Jesus said, “Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’”**

**18 - Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that He had said these things to her.**

Okay, let’s go back and take a close look at what happened in this text.

As Mary Magdalene entered this garden on that first Easter Sunday morning, she was probably talking to herself--- thinking thoughts like these:

- “If only Jesus hadn’t come into Jerusalem during this time of trouble.”
- “If only His disciples had hidden Him somewhere until things calmed down.”
- “If only Peter had been better at fighting with a sword.”
- “If only.”

Mary was doing what all of us do when life hasn't turned out the way we thought it would. We longingly imagine how the past could be reversed---how to "control Z" something bad that has happened. And you know what I'm talking about:

- "If only I hadn't been texting---the accident would never have happened."
- "If only I hadn't gone to that party."
- "If only I had listened to the doctor."
- "If only I had listened to my parents."
- "If only I hadn't lost my temper with my son."
- "If only I hadn't let fear keep me from doing the right thing."

We all have memories of times in our lives we would give anything to reverse or erase. In fact, I believe all humans have the same subconscious yearning to undo what happened in another garden---the Garden of Eden mentioned in Genesis 3. Most aren't aware of it---but deep inside all people know life isn't the way it was supposed to be. And we all have this yearning to get back what Adam and Eve lost when they sinned.

What is really sad is that we each have repeated the same kind of sinful, rebellious acts of Adam and Eve that got us into this mess. We all do it all the time---all of us sin and fall short---and afterwards---we are as ashamed as they were, and we wish we could just "Control Z" it.

Now, please understand. As Mary entered this garden, she thought she was facing a PERSONAL CRISIS. I mean, her beloved Teacher---her Rabbi was dead. But to quote last week's message, she was in for a big surprise because Scripture tells us that what was going on wasn't just a personal crisis for Mary---something she wished could be undone for HER sake.

No, it was much bigger than that.

As she entered this garden, she was dealing with more than a personal crisis---it was an ANCIENT CURSE---the curse that began in that first garden. God was reversing that curse. He was "Control Z-ing" it.

Okay, what was involved in this ancient curse that was given in the Garden of Eden? What did God REVERSE in this OTHER garden that surrounded out Lord's empty tomb? And how does what God did that day impact OUR tombs?

NOTE: I am indebted to RUSSELL MOORE for my outline this morning.

### **1.) First, God reversed or "control Z-ed" the DECEPTION.**

Do you know what I'm talking about? Do remember the deception that took place in the FIRST garden---in Eden? Things were going great between God and the first two humans but then Satan slithered in and spoke to Eve and said, "**Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'**" (Genesis 3:1) Eve told Satan, "**No**"---that in fact God had invited them to eat from all the other trees in the Garden---including the Tree of Life. She went on to tell our adversary, "**But God DID say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden [The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil]---and you must not touch it, or you will die.'**" (Genesis 1:3)

What was Satan's deceptive response?

**"You will certainly NOT die! For God knows that when you eat, your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."** (Genesis 3:4-5)

And we all know that Eve succumbed to Satan's deceit. She ate that forbidden fruit and easily convinced Adam to do the same. Even today, we still experience the consequences of the deceit that led to their disobedient diet.

But now, in our text we come to another garden. Like before, there's a woman there, but this time she doesn't have to deal with Satan---because he had just been defeated. No, this time it's Jesus---God become flesh. That's Who is talking with a woman---THIS woman---Mary outside the garden tomb.

In that first garden Satan said to Eve, *“God is withholding good from you. He’s tricking you. He’s not GOOD.”* And now Mary is shown by God Himself, that what Satan said is not true. Jesus’ presence that day was proof positive of that. In fact, Jesus’ atoning death on the cross and His victorious resurrection are the BEST proof of the fact that God is and always has been---not bad---but GOOD---ALL the time. Our GOOD God gave the first people that beautiful garden to live in---He blessed them with His friendship. And then when they messed all that up by succumbing to Satan’s lies---God initiated a plan to save them from all that.

Do you remember what God said to Satan that day in the first garden? *“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel.”* Who was God referring to when He talked to this fallen angel about Mary’s offspring?

Right---Jesus!

So even then in that first Garden---our Good God was already at work planning for our salvation.

Well, sometime after the events of that first Easter Sunday morning, I think it all began to “click” for Mary as she realized that as Paul would put it in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:20, *“Jesus is the ‘YES’ to every promise of God.”* She understood that HOW good God really is. We know this because as we read in the rest of the Gospel accounts of Easter and the days that followed---we read that Mary and the other disciples came to understand that God has always had a plan---a plan to reverse the effects of the deception of Satan. And on Easter Sunday, Mary was the first to see that plan come to fruition because she was the first to behold our Risen Lord. In that one awesome *“Control-Z”* moment a woman was the first to see the effects of the sin of that other woman---REVERSED!

Listen, Satan is defeated---but he still attempts to deceive us. As Paul warns us, he *“masquerades as an angel of light.”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:14). *“That’s how [Satan] works. He deceives...”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2:10) And the sad, tragic truth is that so many---too many people in our day and age---fall for his deceptions.

This week I came across a story about an art forger named Mark Landis. For nearly 30 years, Landis has made headlines for duping dozens of museums into accepting fakes into their collections. Landis admits he has always had a mischievous streak.

When contacting museums, he would often use aliases and dress like a Jesuit priest. With his odd demeanor and near encyclopedic knowledge of art history, Landis could easily come across as an eccentric art collector.

His skills with a pencil or paintbrush are undeniable. Often using a magnifying glass, Landis studies a print of an original work and, with meticulous attention to detail, copies exactly what he sees---religious icons, impressionist or modern works.

Can you tell which of these is a “Landis fake?”

It’s the one on the right---and I think it looks BETTER than the original! Landis ability to re-create in the style of old masters is astonishing, isn’t it?! What’s even more astonishing are the tools he uses---magic markers and pens and Wal-Mart frames. With these cheap tools he was able to deceive more than 45 museums. They could not tell the difference between Landis’ copies and original works.

Not only were his fakes convincing, but he also knew exactly what to say when he met with museums. As one duped museum director explains, Landis would imply he had more paintings he might donate *“and possible endowments from the family’s estate.”* The museum director admits: *“He knew right where to hit us. Our soft spot: art and money.”*

Well, Landis is like Satan---in that HE knows where to hit us---he knows where we are open to deception. He knows what to say and how to say it. And when we yield, we always face painful consequences. This is why in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9ff,

we are warned, ***“Do not be deceived. Wrongdoers do not inherit the Kingdom of God. Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers---will inherit the kingdom of God.”***

God is using Paul to remind us that Satan always leads us into acts that we think will bring us the kind of abundant joy found in the Kingdom of God we long for---but it is a trap. He’s a deceiver---and when we embrace the sin he leads us to---everything from greed to all forms of sexual immorality---we are led into sorrow and emptiness and regret.

Well, the good news of Easter is that with our Risen Lord in us and with us we can see through Satan’s deceptions. We can recognize his lies. We aren’t alone in “the garden” anymore. God is with us and He gives us the armor we need to ***“take our stand against his wicked schemes.”*** (Ephesians 6:11)

That leads me to mention a second thing that God reversed that day.

## **2.) He reversed the CONDEMNATION.**

Look back at the last thing Jesus said to Mary: ***“Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’”*** (John 20:17)

Now WHO can do that? Who can ascend to God? In Psalm 24 God uses King David to answer this question. He says, ***“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”***

Well, who fits that description? Who has never sinned in his heart or with his hands? Who is wise enough to steer clear of the false gods of this world? JESUS of course! Unlike any other individual, He is righteous---sinless---pure. But when Jesus talks to Mary about this, He refers to God as My Father AND **YOUR** Father---inferring that Mary can ascend as well. Jesus is saying that because of His sacrifice---WE can become righteous in God’s eyes---adopted by faith---joint heirs with Jesus. So, as Paul puts it in Romans 8:1 ***“Therefore there is now NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.”***

Thanks to what Jesus did on the cross---thanks to His empty tomb---we can be forgiven---declared righteous. Satan---the Accuser---can accuse and condemn us no longer. When we put our faith in Jesus God ***“control-z’s”*** our sin!

In his book, *Grace*, Max Lucado tells the story of a Chinese man named Li Fuyan. Li Fuyan was experiencing throbbing headaches and had tried every treatment imaginable but nothing helped. Then, an X-ray finally revealed the culprit. A rusty four-inch knife blade had been lodged in his skull for nearly five years. You see years ago he had been mugged by a robber. And in the fight Fuyan had suffered lacerations on the right side of his jaw. He didn’t know the mugger’s blade had broken off inside his head. Here are pictures of Fuyan in the hospital---and the x-ray that shows the blade in his head. It is no wonder he suffered from such stabbing pain.

With this in mind, Lucado asks:

***“What would an X-ray of your interior reveal? Regrets over an [earlier] relationship? Remorse over a poor choice? Shame about the marriage that didn’t work, the habit you couldn’t quit, the temptation you didn’t resist, or the courage you couldn’t find? Guilt lies hidden beneath the surface, festering, irritating. Sometimes so deeply embedded you don’t know the cause. We can’t live with foreign objects buried in our bodies---or our souls.”***

Because of Easter, we don’t have to. We can be forgiven, cleansed healed---no more condemnation. Thanks to Jesus, ***“when we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9)

And I feel led to point out that our experience of God’s grace should inspire us to follow His example. As people who have experienced the NO CONDEMNATION grace of God---we must reflect that grace. We must be GRACE-DRIVEN.

I'm reminded of the story of a pastor who went to the doctor because he was experiencing constant pain in his shoulder. The doctor examined him and diagnosed the problem as "frozen shoulder" --- something that comes with age and overuse. The doctor said, "There are a couple of things we need to do. The first is physical therapy," and he wrote the pastor a prescription for that. "And I can give you a cortisone shot, right into the joint of that shoulder." The pastor said, "Go for it." As the doctor's getting ready to do the injection, he asked, "What do you do for a living?" The pastoral patient replied, "I'm a minister. I preach for a living. Do you have a church?" The doc said, "No, I gave that up long ago. Now listen, just relax a little bit here, and we'll get that joint all loosened up---so you can continue to point your finger at people."

OUCH! Too many times---too many of us spend our time pointing our fingers at sinners---shame on us. This "earns" us a reputation as pious, holier-than-thou, "finger-pointing condemners." We have to remember---if it weren't for Jesus---we would be just as lost---just as condemned as anyone else.

That leads me to mention something else God "Control-Zed" that first Easter.

### **3.) God reversed the ALIENATION.**

When Adam and Eve sinned---they were alienated from God. They had enjoyed wonderful fellowship with our Creator---long walks side by side in the Garden. But when they sinned, they hid from God. They were ashamed to be in His presence. Sin had separated mankind from God ever since---but now in THIS garden it's different. The supposed gardener---JESUS---appears to Mary and calls her by NAME. No more alienation!

Then He says, "**Go to My brothers.**" ---not My FOLLWERS---not My DISCIPLES---"**My BROTHERS. Sin hasn't separated THIS family!**" Those brothers were hiding in a room somewhere---kind of like Adam and Eve were hiding---and Jesus says, GO TO THEM. TELL THEM WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

This is a reminder that the sin and fear that keeps us hiding from God---has been reversed. When we repent of our sin, we can come boldly into His presence knowing we'll find grace to help us. As Paul puts it in his letters to the churches at Colossae and Ephesus: "**Once we were alienated from God and were enemies in our minds because of our evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.**" "**In Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**" (Colossians 1:21-22; Ephesians 2:13)

In an article for *ChristianityToday.com* entitled "Our Divine Distortion," ---Christian songwriter Carolyn Arends shared a personal story that shows how easy it is to view friends as enemies when we are racked by shame or guilt---a dangerous trait that can have an impact on how we view God. She writes:

*"When I found a brand-new lap-top for half price on eBay, I told my friend and musical colleague Spencer about my bargain of a find. He was worried: 'Usually when something's too good to be true ...' 'I know,' I replied impatiently, 'but the seller has a 100 percent approval rating.' 'Be careful,' warned Spencer. 'Of course,' I assured him, annoyed. I wasn't born yesterday. I sent the seller \$1,300 and discovered in very short, sickening order that I had fallen prey to a classic scam. A fraudster had hacked someone's eBay identity in order to relieve easy marks like me of our money. I felt [like a] fool---and didn't want to tell Spencer. The next time I saw his number on my caller ID, I didn't answer. I could just imagine his 'I told you so.' Soon, I was avoiding Spencer completely. And I started to resent him. Why did he have to be so judgmental? Why couldn't he be on my side? Why was I ever friends with that jerk? Eventually, we had to fly together to perform at a concert. An hour into the flight he asked, 'Whatever happened with that computer thing?' Cornered, I finally confessed my foolishness, dreading the inevitable response. But as soon as I told Spencer about my mistake, a strange thing happened.*

*The enemy I had turned him into evaporated. Spencer turned into Spencer again, my teasing but deeply empathetic buddy. As embarrassed as I was by my eBay error, I felt even dumber about the way I had allowed my shame to distort my perception of a best friend. If my hand had not been forced, I would have remained estranged from him indefinitely. I've always considered myself perceptive, but the longer I live, the more I discover my susceptibility to misinterpretation. This is true of the way I view my friends, truer of the way I see my enemies, and perhaps truest of the way I perceive God."*

Arends is right isn't she!? Our sin pushes us from God---we avoid His presence. We don't like to be reminded of our mistakes. We think, *"God wouldn't want to be around me after what I have done."* Well, because of Jesus---we don't need to feel that way. We can know that our Lord always welcomes a repentant sinner as He did the thief on the cross next to Him. Like the father of the prodigal, He stands on the front porch waiting and watching for us to come home---eager to forgive. No more alienation! We can stop hiding. ALLI ALLI OXEN FREE!!!

So, on that first Easter morning God reversed---the deception, the condemnation, the alienation. And finally,

#### 4.) God reversed the CORRUPTION.

Mary Magdalene came to that garden tomb that morning---thinking it was a place of death and decay---which tombs always are. Remember---Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already wrapped Jesus' dead body in spice laden cloth to slow the inevitable physical corruption. And Mary has come to do more of the same.

You see part of the curse for mankind's sin---was death. As God told Adam, ***"You will return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*** (Genesis 3:19)

But Mary doesn't find Jesus' body beginning the corruption that turns all bodies into dust. Instead, she finds our RISEN LORD. This is the greatest "CONTROL-Z" of all---because we all fear death. This is why we have a hard time looking at a dead body---for when we do, we think, *"That's me someday."*

And we don't have to go to a funeral to be reminded of this terrifying fact. We can look in the mirror and see that corruption and decay coming---we can see our bodies aging, failing, gradually returning to the dust from whence they came.

This week I came across an excerpt of a *Newsweek* magazine article written back in 2011 by Lloyd Grove. It's about Arnold Schwarzenegger. I want to read you part of Grove's article.

*"Life at 63, for Arnold Schwarzenegger, is a titanic clash between human frailty and dazzling possibility. Arnold says, 'I feel terrific about where I am in my life, when I look back at what I've accomplished---but I feel [horrible] when I look at myself in the mirror.'*

*It's a jolt to hear Schwarzenegger—a five-time Mr. Universe and seven-time Mr. Olympia before he was Conan the Barbarian, the Terminator, and ultimately Governor of California---it's a jolt to hear him musing about his own decay. But even though he is still strapping in shirtsleeves, a fine specimen of aging movie star---he has lost an inch and a half from his previous 6-foot-2 height---the 31-inch waist has ballooned to 36, and the vaunted 57-inch chest has shrunk by a half foot.*

*Arnold tells me, 'I'm not competing, I'm not ripping off my shirt and trying to sell the body, but when I stand in front of a mirror and really look, I wonder: What the [heck] happened here? What a beating my body has taken!'*

*Thirteen years ago, when he was 50, Schwarzenegger had surgery to replace a defective aortic valve. At some point in the next several years the valve will wear out, and surgeons will split his chest open to install a new one. 'It does quite a number on you for quite some time,' [he] tells me, 'because---even though you're strong willed---you know from now on you're damaged goods.' He adds with a chuckle: 'As with most things, I live in denial.'"*

Schwarzenegger is right---our bodies are *"damaged goods."* As we age, we all look like we've taken a beating---because of the corruption of sin. And people who take anti-aging supplements---people who think they can stop that---are living in denial.

But as Christians---we know God has reversed this corruption---we need not fear death for as Jesus said, ***"I am the Living One! I was dead, and now look! I am alive forever and ever and I hold the keys of death and Hades. I am the***

***resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.*** (Revelation 1:18, John 19:25)

Thanks to Jesus, death has no hold on us because once we put our faith in Him---we have a resurrection coming.

- If you are entering the “elderly years” you don’t have to live in fear. You have a resurrection coming.
- If you are dealing with a scary diagnosis---you don’t have to fear. You have a resurrection coming!
- If you are watching your father’s body fail. You don’t have to fear. He has a resurrection coming!
- If you are a grieving widow or widower---You don’t have to fear. There is a resurrection coming!

There’s something else I have learned in all my experience with keyboards. To type correctly you have to have your index fingers in the right place---the left one on the “F” key and the right one on the “J” key. Keyboards have a little raised bump on each of those keys so you can feel when your index fingers are in the correct place. The thing is when your pointers are on the right keys you know where all the other keys are. When you DON’T have your fingers there---your typing is nonsense---messed up.

Well, the key to living abundantly, joyfully in this fallen world is to keep our minds on the right “keys.” We must learn to look at life through the perspective of what happened in that garden on Easter morning. With the “*fingers of our minds*” on two “keys” ---Jesus’ atoning death and victorious resurrection---we can live without falling for Satan’s deceptions. We can enjoy the freedom of knowing there is no condemnation---we can walk through life like Adam and Eve---with God at our side---and we can be freed from the fear of death. All those bad things that came from mankind’s greatest error has been reversed because He is RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!