

What Easter Makes You Do

Matthew 28

Easter makes many people do things they normally don't do: dye Easter eggs, go on Easter egg hunts, eat tons of chocolate before breakfast, purchase new clothes, go to church, wear a pink tie, wear a hat and make plans to be with extended family for a giant meal.

There are many things that this weekend makes you do...and do willingly, lovingly, excitedly, and expectantly. The Easter passage before us reveals what the First Easter made disciples do...

1. Look at the Tomb v1

My mom's grave...Hawley cemetery, outside Bay City, Texas. /Tomb in the Garden, Jerusalem, Israel

It is our look at the Tomb which solidifies our faith.

False Theories of the Resurrection:

1. Hallucination Theory...so overcome with grief, they just thought they saw Jesus
2. Swoon Theory...not really dead, woke up, rolled the stone, overpowered guards
3. Wrong Tomb...women went to wrong tomb
4. Theft Tomb...disciples stole the body as the soldiers slept

Spiritual resurrection only...

2. Run v7-8

a .Women after conversation with angel...to tell disciples

b. Peter and John, John 24

c .On the road to Emmaus, Luke 24: 33. 'got up and returned at once.'

d. Simon Peter, John 21 (Miraculous catch of fish) 'As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'it is the Lord', he wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water.'

e. Guards, went into the city to tell chief priests...afraid for their lives, didn't go to their commander first. (If you run away from Christ, you will always run in the wrong direction to the wrong people.)

There's just something about an encounter with Christ that picks up your pace in life...something that causes you to get excited and move into action. When you hear from the Master, you want to do something...like:

Run to tell others...

Run to see for yourself...

Run to Jesus again...

3. Worship Him v9

That's what the women did when they saw Him:

a. **They came to Him**...Physical action to come close. Worship involves intimacy not a disconnected, recitation of words. There is a desire to come near.

b. **Clasped His feet**...Physical demonstration to acknowledge honor (feet, not shoulders, neck, waist, face...place of submission/respect/authority. This is the eastern response to a king or one you would give your obedience and submission behavior to...

c. **Worshipped Him**...Verbal/emotional adoration. Words not recorded.

That's what we've done this day, but it is to be done everyday...Corporately, Publicly...Individually, Privately.

Do you go out of your way, physically and emotionally, tangibly to honor the Lord. What does your worship really look like?

4. Expect to See Him Again

Great expectation to see Him in Galilee. In Galilee, He would meet them by the sea, for breakfast...in Galilee, they were open to new things and different thoughts...they were more revolutionary in their thought there than in Jerusalem. Though Jerusalem was the capital, Galilee was the gateway to the Gentile world...it was in Capernaum where Jesus headquarter is ministry. It was where He first called Andrew, Peter, James and John...what better place to meet them...logical.

Jesus didn't wait until only then to see them:

Timeline from Answers in Genesis...

For us, we will meet Him in the air! 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 ...At the Midnight Cry by Alvin Slaughter.

5. Obey Him

Great Commission...

If ever there was a time for Christ followers to be obedient to Him and committed to His Word, it is now when: our world is in turmoil, as our culture struggles with what is moral and acceptable and when men are more set on recommending themselves rather than repenting of their sin. Now it the time for those who have a relationship that is real with Christ to stand and be counted!

6. Make a Decision v11-15

John's gospel is the only one which records the guards witnessing the encounter with angel and women. "so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men." Frozen to hear and see the angel, they actually heard the message of Jesus' resurrection. They had an encounter with an angel collectively. Notice their responses:

1. Paralyzed in Fear...they experienced something which traumatized them.

2. Heard the message from the angel...as he talked to the women

3. Went to report to chief priests, not their commanding officer...sought religious interpretation. And as today, not all religious are sensitive to the Word of God or actually

believe in the prophecies of the Bible and are more concerned about their keeping a job by maintaining the system, than being a representative of the King of Kings.

4. Allowed themselves to be bought.

They chose money and security over choosing to live for truth. How many of us are at the very same place as them. We, too have witnessed the power of God at one time in our lives, we actually repented of our sin, chose to walk with Christ, but somehow, it was either the lure of making a living, the concern of life or a bad experience with some religious teacher or teachers, that has persuaded us to take the money and run.

Easter calls you to make a decision to align your life with Christ and His agenda or somehow, think you can witness the power of God, be exposed to the claims of Christ and take no action. We either choose FOR HIM or AGAINST HIM...

I Choose FOR HIM...Why?

First, if Jesus rose from the dead, then what He said about Himself is true. He stated, "I am the Resurrection and the life; he who believes in me shall live even if he dies" (John 11:25). He also stated, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man comes to the father , but through me" (John 14:6). Eternal life is found through Jesus Christ alone. Any religious belief that contradicts this must be false. Every religious leader has been buried in a grave. Their tombs have become places of worship. The location of Jesus' tomb is unknown because it was empty; his body is not there. There was no need to enshrine an empty tomb.

Second, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:54, "Death has been swallowed up in victory." Physical death is not the end; eternal life with our Lord awaits all who trust in Him because Jesus has conquered death.