

Welcome to Vertical Church – Jeremy Hickman – Lead Pastor – Welcome to Easter!!!

R. Sunday – Celebrate the Truth Jesus Christ defeated sin & death and rose on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day | Why Here

No offer of salvation w/o the resurrection – No accepting the offer w/o believing in the resurrection

The resurrection is not just a component of the gospel...in envelops every piece of the gospel

- What is the Gospel? Good News Concerning Jesus Christ and the Way of Salvation
- What does the Gospel Promise? Sin's Forgiven | Made Right with God | Eternal Life with God

**Only Questions You HAVE to answer: Who is God – How does He work – How do we respond to Him**

No matter who you are & what brought you into this room today...what you hear must be dealt with  
Is this life transforming – life saving – answer all existential questions...Here, Purpose, Going | Or not  
Look around...today in this room and all over the world people gather because they believe

The Resurrection Reminds Believers that Christ Has Won

"He / She cheated death"? Gravity-defying stunt, tight scrape, gravely ill recover | BRENT

- But what do we mean? Managed to stay alive for now. Recover or survive against the odds  
Jesus didn't cheat death. Jesus defeated death

a) Cheating death...spectacular...temporary victory – It postpones...but cannot eliminate the reality

b) Defeating death...power stronger...That first Easter Morning Jesus displayed power over death  
E. Tomb...Didn't just defer inevitable...survive lit. longer | He won a victory...belief gives us His victory | Pray

<sup>1</sup>When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

- Crucified on Friday, day before Sabbath - Anointed perfume right after...no opportunity  
Wanted to honor Jesus – Had not thought it through | Stone was heavy and guarded – Matthew  
<sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup>And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. **Three Takeaways from The Empty Tomb...**

### 1. Displays God's victory (4-6)

<sup>4</sup>And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. They get there...stone rolled away

Why did God send angels to roll the stone away? Was it to let Jesus out?

- Nope – Scripture after resurrection, physical barriers: Doors | Walls wouldn't hinder Jesus  
God rolled the stone away not to let Jesus out, but to let people in – Everyone could look!  
Women saw it was empty | Peter & John | Tomb was empty...well...except the angels | 2 = witnesses  
v6 'You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid Him'  
Grandfather = Farmer | His Granddaughter married George = Doctorate Quantum Mechanics NASA  
'I make sure airplanes get on and off aircraft carriers without crashing' | Why didn't you just say that?  
**Simplicity: Seek (Realize) – Crucified (Payment) – He Has Been Raised (Power) – See (Evidence)**

• Witnesses (Biblical & extra) | Sunday | 50 days Pentecost | Women | Disciples – James & Paul  
'Many have died for a lie No one dies for what they know is a lie' | 1 or 2 conclusions. Either:

a) Hundreds of common, unassociated people devised an elaborate & coherent plan to fabricate the claim of the resurrection, & then an agreed to follow this plan all the way to death. **JOKE**

b) Or, Jesus was raised from the dead | Who is God – How does He work – how do we respond

The empty tomb displays God's victory, and it invites us to be participants in that victory

- We can't have victory without it...preserve for a while, but ultimately we're all headed for death
- And not just a physical death, but a spiritual death = **The empty Tomb is the Power over death!**  
**And that is accomplished because the empty tomb...**

### 2. Destroys Sin's Power (6-7)

<sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."

Best part of this whole verse is? "And Peter." | Why 'And Peter' | Good looking humble guys and \_\_\_  
48 hours – Barabbas set free | Thief Promised | Centurion Proclaim | Pious Jew Sacrifice

Not Judas – And Peter...I'll tell you the why not Judas, but 'and Peter'

- Last time saw Peter: Denied Jesus – Heard the Rooster – Locked Eyes w/ Jesus – Broke and wept
- Difficult Friday: Looked on Golgotha from a distance – Darkened – Shook – Graves – Curtain
- Difficult Saturday: Do something wrong...eats at you...all day streets of Jerusalem – Upper room  
Although Mark wrote down the words in this Gospel, it was based on Peter's retelling of the events
- I denied Him – Jesus is coming for you | I promised I wouldn't – Jesus is coming for you

The one who stayed with Jesus when the going was good but left when it was hard and uncertain  
The one who was more interested in being comfortable than in standing with Jesus  
The one who is guiltiest of all...

Peter | Thief | Centurion | Joseph of Arimathea | Nicodemus = All have something in common  
Not their upbringing – Ethnicity – Socio-economic standing = Sinners...like you and I

Saved by the power of the cross and the resurrection to destroy sins power

No matter what you've done – No matter what's been done to you...there is salvation in Christ!

Rom. 10:9-10 'if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Sin created a chasm between us and God – Jesus Christ stood in that gap – So we can return HOME

Maybe you feel like the least likely candidate for salvation

It isn't about you – God redeems sinners for His own Glory!

And the resurrection displays God's victory & destroys the eternal power of sin

We cannot treat the empty tomb with neutrality – No decision is a decision

### 3. Demands Our Response (8)

<sup>8</sup>And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. | What a place to leave the story isn't it?

- The news about the empty tomb moved a lot of people in a lot of different ways
  - These women, Peter and John, the Roman soldiers, etc), never happened was disinterest
  - Everyone who saw it – experienced it – had to respond to it!

The women were shaken to their core. And if we're honest the empty tomb will do the same for us  
Because the power that defeated death has profound implications for our lives

- God is in the business of new life  
Everything that took place in His life ⇒ death point to one determination: Christ's Victory!

Complete triumph of God's power and his love expressed through Christ.

What about your life?

- Gospel = Good News Concerning Jesus Christ and the Way of Salvation
- Gospel Promise = Sin's Forgiven | Made Right with God | Eternal Life with God

**Only Question you Have to Answer: Who is God – How does He Work – How do we Respond to Him**

Is this life transforming – life saving – answer all existential questions...Here, Purpose, Going | Or not  
Believe by Faith – Repent of Sin – Commit your Life

(invitation / response: cards and pens in seat in front of you, take a minute and think abt it,