

G R O W T H N O T E S***E A S T E R S U N D A Y******TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Matthew 28:1-7*****TODAY'S MESSAGE:****“Looking For Jesus”****Matthew 28:1-7 New Living Translation**

(NLT): Early on Sunday morning as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear

when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

It's hard to comprehend the mindset of these women who made their way to the tomb on that weekend following the crucifixion. They went to serve because it was what people did when there was a death for the rituals of death are often certain—known—automatic—and

unthinking which was good because on that morning they weren't capable of thinking just moving going through the motions. They were moving like automatons like robots assigned a specific task gathering the spices the oils the cloth wrapping it all together preparing for their early morning Journey.

Maybe they slept—maybe not—or stared at the walls through The Dark Night eyes burning with used up tears. Together they set out huddled but alone in their own pain and silence they walked on legs they could not feel burdened by the weight they could not describe. Then out of the silence was a sudden intake of breath as somebody remembered the stone—and they stopped dead in their tracks realizing their way was blocked. The stone blocked their way their Duty and their hope—impeding them from

performing this last service for him. They started to move again driven by loss toward the place of death.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES

- 1. First, we have to ask the question, are we really looking for Jesus in our lives—our families—our church—our politics—our economics—our community—and our world?**

- 2. Secondly—do we know what He looks like—and would we know Jesus if we spotted Him?**

3. Are we committed to the search or have we given up concluding that it's not worth the time—energy—and the effort?

HOW DO WE FIND JESUS?

4. Finding Jesus actually begins with deciding to look for Him every day as you go about your business—doing your job running your business—facing your trials—navigating your troubles—AND—confronting your challenges.

5. Look for Jesus in the lives of others.

6. Look for Jesus working in your own life.

7. Looking for Jesus is how we're to live our lives—a continuous discipline to discern daily who we are—what we think—what we know—and what we do.

8. The goal is to be consistent with what Jesus did during His pilgrimage on the planet;

C O N C L U S I O N

***- If you don't remember anything else from this message—remember this sentence—
EVERY BLESSING OBLIGATES YOU!***

- Whatever happened to bless your life—
- enrich your life—
- empower your life—
- AND—enable your life—God wants you to help it happen for somebody else!