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Easter Sunday  
4/9/23  
Luke 24:1-8

### Discussion Questions:

1. Who do you know that you would describe as “devoted”? What are they devoted to? How can you measure devotion? How does that relate to our relationship with Jesus?
2. Why do you think the women didn’t worry about rolling the stone? Would you have done the same thing as they did? Why or why not?
3. When we are puzzled, God knows the solution. Why is it so hard to just stand and wait? What can we do while we stand to help us?
4. Have you ever found that you were looking to someone or something else for life? Would it last very long? Would it last past the grave?
5. What do think you God could be reminding you about from this message? Did you learn or were reminded anything about God?

### **MESSAGE NOTES:**

This last week of Jesus’ life for His disciples was quite a week. Talk about a roller coaster!  
They went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows.

**So much happened during this time, Gospel writers spent about a third of their books on this final week. 29 of 89.**

John spent nearly half his book recounting this time period. 12-20

**The week began with the triumphal entry.**

They had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead.

They had sung songs of the Messiah, the Chosen One of God.

They were welcoming Him as a king to the great Passover feast.

This was going to be amazing! Who knows what could happen?!

**Then Jesus cleansed the temple and He taught and healed.**

They had to be excited that He was calling out the injustice and hypocrisy in their religious leaders.

**His messages were powerful but it was enflaming the Jews**

They knew He was talking about them.

In the middle of the week, Caiaphas the high priest says this...

**You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.**

He didn't realize he was being prophetic...

...as he planned to murder the Messiah.

**Jesus was anointed by Mary of Bethany**

This annoyed Judas, bcuz her gift was costly and he was a thief.

**Then Jesus celebrated Passover, washed their feet, and gave them a new command.**

Even tho the Jewish leaders hated him- it is so hopeful and good!

**He gives them a new sign during Passover-the bread/wine...**

**...was His body and blood.**

He also tells them one of them is a betrayer...

...And this is when things turn dark.

**Judas leaves and is possessed by the devil.**

Jesus goes out to pray as He normally does.

Judas betrays Him with a kiss in the garden.

Jesus is arrested, mocked, lied about, unjustly tried and convicted

The Jews knew He was innocent and...

...the Romans knew He was framed...

...but they listened to the crowd and crucified Him.

**Disciples went from thinking best week ever!...**

**...Jesus was the king, who is gonna be the greatest!...**

... to every dream being dashed and hope swallowed by...

... the darkest time of their life.

One of their own, Judas, betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

One of their leaders, Peter, denied Jesus 3 times.

One of the followers, Mark, ran away without his robe.

The crowds went from Hosanna in the highest to Crucify Him.

Some stayed and saw Jesus die and be buried.

And then there was the Sabbath so they rested and mourned.

**This has been quite a week...**

**...but at the end of the week comes another Sunday...**

**And ...That Sunday Changed Everything...**

Luke 24:1 But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 3 So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 As they stood

there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.

My purpose: you to have a Real and Right relationship with God.

**TITLE: How can we live in the shadow of the cross...**

**...and the light of the empty tomb?**

1. Let your devotion be a response to His devotion.

These women were devoted followers of Christ.

They would honor Him even if He was dead.

They sought to serve Him even after they watched Him die.

These women are amazing examples of unwavering devotion in the shadow of the cross.

**What a testimony to us...**

**...as we can easily become “fair weather followers”.**

Things get inconvenient, life gets busy, there is that one person I don't like at church, I've got important things to do...

**...And our devotion to Jesus deflates.**

**...In their minds, Jesus could do nothing for them now...**

**...but they were still devoted.**

**When your devotion is lacking, ask yourself...**

**...what am I looking at?**

These women had stood at the cross.

They were some of the few that had stayed.

And they are the only ones that have come.

Stop looking at situations and analyzing feelings...

And **Look to Jesus**, look to the cross, see His great love for you.

And your devotion will grow and deepen.

**Now...We know they were worried about moving the stone...**  
...But that didn't stop them from showing up.

Fear of harm, lack of support, and a physical obstacle would not keep these devoted women from honoring their Lord.

**Here is how we can live in the shadow of the cross and the light of the empty tomb...**

**2. Focus on honoring the Lord not the obstacles in the way.**

**Devoted followers don't have to have all the answers...**

... they loved Him who loved them...

...and they wanted to honor Him.

Those moved by compassion don't need all the details worked out, **sometimes you just go to serve and see what God will do**

And when they got there, the stone was already rolled away.

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**But...when they went in, they didn't see the body of Jesus.**

...and that is what they were looking for...a body.

...They were not looking for a risen savior!

They had listened to Jesus talk about dying and rising again...

...but they never understood it.

**They were devoted...but not informed.**

Their devotion was to a memory.

**Right now...Jesus was more martyr than messiah.**

**And so they stood there puzzled.**

Have you ever stood there puzzled?

You see what doesn't make sense?

You feel what you don't understand?

Don't walk away.

Don't let your confusion make you run from Christ or His church.

**In the shadow of the cross and the light of the tomb**

**3. Stand and see what God will do.**

**What these women need is what we need...**

We need God to show up or send a message or do a work.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand Eph 6:13

**At the Red Sea Moses said...stand**

**...hold ur peace and see what God will do, he will fight for u!**

**....So we stand by faith and wait...**

...And sometimes just standing is a giant step.

**5 The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?"**

When the men in dazzling robes appear, the women are terrified.

...They don't know what is going on...

...this is not what they expected.

**The angels begin with a question...**

Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?

**You don't think God has a sense of humor?!**

They don't ask who they are looking for or how they can help.

They just ask an interesting question: why are you looking here?

They have spices to wrap a dead body.

They expected to find a tomb with a cold, dead friend.

**They weren't looking for life, they were looking for Jesus**

You know how it is when you know something and someone else doesn't?

You are just playing with them because you know something they don't and it is going to be really good.

**These angels are just playing with them.**

...But let's think about that question...

**...Why do we look for life among the dead?**

Funny how **we think we can find life in things that have no life!**

Or we **hope** in things that have **no future**.

Or we seek **direction** from things that **don't move**.

Money, stuff, success, sports, pleasure, fun, excitement...

**...These things are fine, but we won't find real life in them...**

**...Even the little life they have has a short shelf life.**

...They give nothing beyond the grave.

When they are over I am empty.

I don't know who I am without them.

I don't know what is next after them.

The feeling of being lost and lonely, without purpose and hope...

...is not answered by the things of this world...

... or the things we do or accomplish in this world.

**Ironically, the answer to the question...**

**... where can we find life is actually found in a tomb...**

**An empty tomb! The One in that tomb died like we all do...**

**...but He rose again like no other person ever has.**

Here is how you can live in the shadow of the cross and the light of the empty tomb.

**4. Find life in the One who overcame death.**

Look to Jesus, come&worship, open your heart, turn from your sin

**6** He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, **7** that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

The angels have a very short and powerful message for them. He isn't here...Well, where is He? He is risen from the dead.

**Then they give them a reminder...  
...don't you remember what He told you?**

Jesus told them He must suffer at the hands of sinful men. They just didn't get it, until now...now they remembered it.

Sometimes we can hear something a hundred times and then the hundred and one does it and God opens our eyes!

**Why did the angels say, "He must"?**  
Because from the foundation of the world.  
Since before Adam and Eve first sinned.  
God had planned to rescue us from sin by sending His Son to die.

The death and resurrection of Christ was a purposeful promise...  
...and God **keeps His promises and fulfills his purpose.**

Jesus **MUST** be betrayed and crucified...  
**And that was all too clear to them.**  
They saw it, they felt it, they couldn't get it out of their head!  
...But they couldn't see the other side of the cross, until now.

**Like these disciples, we forget His promises...**  
We forget His goodness because of the evil in the world.



We forget His grace because of our own sin.  
We forget His power bcuz of the challenges we face or weakness we feel.

**I am no angel, but I am here to remind you this...  
...God keeps His promises.**

### **5. If God has promised it, He will fulfill it.**

The shadow of the cross and the light of the tomb proclaim that God keeps His promises.

If you think there is some promise that has expired  
If you think there is some line that you have crossed  
*Christ has risen from the dead, and with God anything is possible.*

Jesus is alive. You can be forgiven.  
You can have a relationship with God.

And once they remembered, they responded...

### **6. Everyone has a response to the Gospel.**

**8** Then they remembered that he had said this. **9** So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.

**There are always 2 responses...**

**The women who had been at the cross and seen the empty tomb rushed back to tell everyone.**

They saw the empty tomb and were puzzled.  
They found the angels and they were terrified.  
...But when they remembered Jesus' promise...  
...they rush to return and tell everyone else this good news.

But not everyone has the same response...

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. 11 But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.

Some people come, they hear, and they are like wow! Yes!  
...And to others, they hear and they think nonsense.

**Your acceptance or rejection of Christ doesn't change the truth and power of the cross to save.**

You can choose not to believe, but to choose a life without God is to choose an eternity separated from all good.

This isn't like choosing where you are going for brunch.  
**This is choosing the daily direction of your life and where you will spend eternity.**

The shadow of the cross and the light of the empty tomb show us this was the only way for us to be saved from our sin and have a relationship with God.

We all go our own way and do our own thing.  
We all have sinned and sin.  
But I have good news for you.

**Jesus died and rose again, and He is looking for you.**  
Whether it is the first time or the hundredth time