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3/31/24
Just As He Said
Easter Sunday

Discussion Questions:

1. Is the resurrection what most people think is special or unique about Jesus? Why or why not?
 2. Besides God, who do you trust the most? Why? How long did it take to trust them like that?
 3. Why do you think the women came so early to the tomb? Was it fear or faith?
 4. What does it mean to you to “look for Jesus”?
 5. What was significant for you in this study?
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Teaching Notes:

He died and rose again so we could be with Him.

BIG IDEA...God wants to have a relationship with us.

Jesus is unique.

What Jesus says and does is more important than any other person in history, because no other person in history has lived a perfect life, predicted his own death & then rise from the grave fulfilled His own prediction.

If Jesus has power over life & death... we best pay attention.

The **reason** He was **born**, and the **reason** He **died**...

...and the reason He **rose** again...

...was so we could have a **relationship with Him**.

But every relationship is built on trust...

...A key way trust is built is with follow through.

So God regularly predicts the future, & fulfills it so that our faith is stronger & our relationship deeper.

The phrase that has carried us thru the week is **Just As He said**

In Mark 10:33 Jesus told them what was coming...

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the

Gentiles; **34** and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”

And on Good Friday that is exactly what happened.

Matthew 28: 1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

They were coming to look at the tomb.

They did not remember or believe what He had said.

And who could blame them?

What they saw and experienced was horrific.

But despite the violence & death & threats & unknown...

...They returned to Him.

If you don't want to miss the life God has for you...

1. Return to Jesus.

You do not need warm feelings or even great faith...

...come with whatever you have and see what He has for you.

Take whatever steps you can to return to Jesus.

This is His heart: **Isaiah 44:22 NLT** I have swept away your sins like a cloud. I have scattered your offenses like the morning mist. Oh, return to me, for I have paid the price to set you free.”

Acts 3:18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.

Just as He said, return, repent & you will find refreshment.

There was hope beyond the grave and life beyond their pain.

They just needed to return to Jesus and they would find it.

And so do we, again and again... keep returning to Him.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3** His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. **4** The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

A lot of people, like these guards, are afraid right now.

...And frankly there are not wrong.

- **Some people respond like to fear like these men, frozen.**

- Some like the **disciples flee** & hope fear doesn't follow them.
- Others are like Peter when Jesus was arrested...
...they pull out their sword and start fighting people.

All of these are reactions to fear not responses of faith.

So look what the angel says...

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. **6** He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

2. Look for Jesus.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Look at what the angel says next...

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." **8** So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**Jesus was alive just as He said, and everything changed.
He met them where they were & He greeted them w/love.**

And they held Him and worshipped Him...

...and He told them not to be afraid...

And after their relationship was restored...

...He gave them something to do beyond themselves.

If we want to experience the life and relationship God has for you:

3. Serve Jesus

He says, go tell the brothers.

Jesus has risen from the dead, Jesus is alive.

And whatever He wants them to do, they are going to do it.

Matthew 16:25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

It will be just as He said, you will find your life, when you lose it for Him.

