

**Illustration:** Getting Back What You Have Lost:

A man frantically rushed into his house and told his wife that they had a major problem.

Calmly she asked, “*What is it?*”

“*There is water in the carburetor.*”

She paused to think about that statement because she knew that her husband always took their car to the shop if it needed repaired.

“*Honey,*” she said softly, “*I didn’t know you knew what a carburetor is. How are you sure that there is water in it?*”

A look of helplessness drifted over her husband’s face. “*Because the car is in the swimming pool,*” he said. “*So, I guess there is water in the carburetor.*”

This man’s situation made him feel **hopeless**. After all, car ownership doesn’t sink much lower than when the vehicle is at the bottom of a pool.

Maybe you’ve never experienced something as drastic as what I have just described, but I would imagine that you have experienced your own time of **hopelessness**.

A time when you felt like giving up—maybe on a situation, a job, a relationship...or even on yourself.

If you have been there, or if you are there right now, I point you to the message of Easter: no matter how **hopeless** things may appear (and nothing can be more **hopeless** than the Son of God dying on a cross!), God can give back what is lost.

When you **hope** in Him, He can turn things around! Remember:

**Psalm 30:5**

<sup>5</sup>Weeping may stay overnight, but there is joy in the morning.

As believers, we have a tremendous reason to **hope**: God loves us, and He has done everything in His awesome power to make that love available at any time and place.

He went so far as to put His Son on the cross so that He could give us **hope**!

All we must do is ask Him to give us the **hope** we need.

He understands the pressures that we feel and knows exactly what we need!

If you are struggling with a situation that seems **hopeless**, know that you are not alone!

Christ, your Savior, is right beside you! As you pray to Him, open your heart to His Word.

Nothing you face is beyond His ability to heal and restore. Therefore, never give up!

Sometimes our breakthroughs are delayed because God is waiting to see if we will turn to Him or if we will keep trying to fix things ourselves—to somehow drive our cars right back out of the pool!

But when we put our **hope** in God, He will move in our lives in mighty ways!

So, trust Him. The same Jesus that raised Jesus from the dead can help you too!

With that being said, let's stand and read our passage together...

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-6**

**Key Verse: Verse 6**

**Matthew 28:6**

<sup>6</sup> He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

It is not necessary to see the Lord with our human eyes in order to love Him, trust Him, and share His glory (1 Peter 1:8).

**1 Peter 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him;

though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy,

Grab your outline now and follow along with me as I preach on this subject:

**“Hope Has Come – Come and See!”**

The picture here starts out grim.

Think about it...there **hope** was gone! He is dead!

They were coming to finish His burial properly since they had to expedite it because of Passover.

I want you to notice with me some simple yet profound truths this morning:

I mean, stop and think about the scene...

It was in a graveyard...still dark...they were women...Roman Guards...then a very bright **Angel**...then an earthquake!!!

Romans **SEAL** Team Six was down for the count!!!! In a catatonic state!

Come on guys! Who wouldn't have been scared to death!

So, here's the first lesson:

I. **Do Not be Afraid!**

I mean think about it! That's why the Angel said it...

**Matthew 28:5 (CSBBible)**

<sup>5</sup> The angel told the women, “Don't be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

**Matthew 28:10 (CSBBible)**

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus told them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

All through the Bible we are admonished “not to be afraid; fear not; etc.” 365 times someone has said!

**A. Do not Fear Death (or the grave)!**

**Revelation 1:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, “Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last,

<sup>18</sup> and the Living One. I was dead, but look — I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hell.

[**Illus**] Tombstone in Indiana: “Pause stranger as you pass me by, as you are now so once was I, as I am now so you will be, prepare for death and follow me.” – Someone else wrote in at the bottom: “To follow you I'm not content, until I know which way you went!

[**Illus**] When Michael Faraday (the English scientist who contributed to the study of electromagnetism and electrochemistry) was dying, a group of journalists questioned him about his “speculations” for a life after death.

“Speculations!” He said, “I know nothing about speculations. I am resting on certainties! I know that my redeemer liveth and because He lives, I shall live also!”

**B. Do not Fear Daily Living (or tomorrow)!**

Some people have so messed up in life, they are afraid to face a day when they know they are going to get caught!

Some have been so hurt by grief, failures, losses, etc. that they cannot bear to think of another day!

[**Illus**] Dis you know that in America, the suicide rate is 3 times higher than the homicide rate?

People just can't deal with life!

- Judas committed suicide!
- Eusebius the historian states that after Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension that Pontus Pilate committed suicide!

Christ's resurrection gives us HOPE!

People cannot live one day without HOPE!

The good news is that they don't have to!

Do you know what happens just after “Come and See?”

“Go and Tell!” See Verse 7

### **Matthew 28:7**

<sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has risen from the dead and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there.’ Listen, I have told you.”

### **Matthew 28:10**

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus told them, “**Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.**”

So, *Do Not Be Afraid...*

## II. **Do Not be Ashamed!**

Many Christians do not commit their will totally to God. They reserve a portion for selfish endeavor.

When Christians totally surrender to God, they will not be ashamed to “go and tell!”

### **Luke 9:26**

<sup>26</sup> **For whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and that of the Father and the holy angels.**

### **Matthew 10:32 (CSBBible)**

<sup>32</sup> “**Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before**

**others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.**

### **Romans 10:9-10 (CSBBible)**

<sup>9</sup> If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

## **Conclusion:**

What about it dear friend? Are you a Christian?

You say, “Pastor Bruce, what do I do?”

I am going to give you four things quickly:

1. **Recognize you’re a sinner and He is your Savior personally.**
2. **Repent of your sins purposefully.**
3. **Receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior publicly.**
4. **Be ready to respond promptly.**

Let us stand and sing...

**Invitation Hymn:**

\*Bruce Beach, M. BE—3/27/24 @ WHBC-a.m.; Easter Sunday.