



All Things New – Part 3 – Easter Sunday

March 24, 2024

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BIG IDEA – Life in grave places.

scripture focus - Matthew 28:5-6 NLT Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “**I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here!** He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

Luke 24:1-5 NLT Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn’t find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, **two men suddenly appeared to them**, clothed in dazzling robes. 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?**”

With minds still swirling and whirling, because death and grief never allow for a moments rest, three unlikely grouping of women; Mary Magdalene, a former hostel for several demons, Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod’s household manager, and Mary, mother of Jesus, arrived at a borrowed Airtnt (tomb and trough) before the crack of dawn, Sunday morning.

Luke tells us they went into Joseph of Arimathea’s private burial cave because the massive stone had already rolled away. **They were looking for Jesus, but the crypt was uninhabited!** Ah, except for two men in dazzling clothes. The women were terrified and bowed down in reverence. **The angels asked the ladies a profound question, “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?”** Great question! **How do we find life in grave places?**

Most look at Easter, or Resurrection Sunday as **proof positive** of the truth that Jesus proclaimed. And it is!

Christ’s resurrection is the definitive answer to all the questions about the reality of, and divinity of Jesus being God.

Easter is far more than proof of truth. **Easter is the proof of promise and proof of life.** God kept His promises and continues to do so, bringing the good life and the pinnacle of hope with the promise of **all things new**.

Irrefutable Truth

It is 100% agreed that Jesus was real, lived in Israel and died.

Even with irrefutable truth that Jesus also resurrected, secular scholars will not commit to his coming back to life.

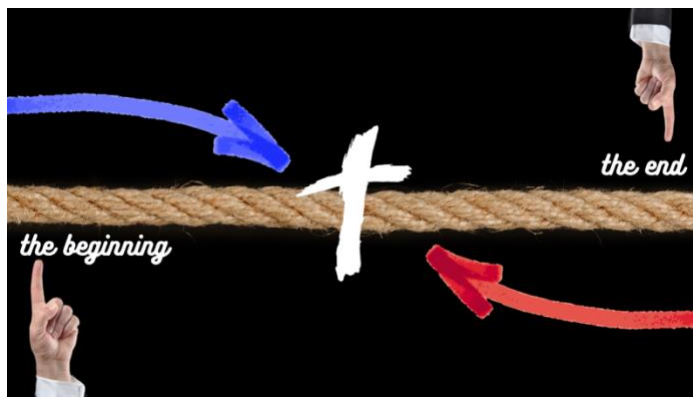
There are folks still believe the world is flat, we never landed on the moon and Elvis is alive.

To go on record believing that would mean they would have to admit Jesus is exactly who he said he is – God in flesh. The sacrifice and only access to God and to heaven. They would have to agree with Jesus' own words, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6.

Thoroughly New

That resurrection day defined this day. That day defined your future. That day is your new day.

How can one day be a perpetual do-over day for so many?



That day, it was like God stretched time on a linear path from beginning to end. **But this one event somewhere in the middle would define both our past and the future.** The beginning looking forward and the future, the end, looking back as the **moment** it would all make sense.

It was the anchor and reference point for God's grace and mercy being poured out on humanity. Nothing will ever be the same. And because everything was

brought up to the standard of **new**, it means that everyone can get in on the offer to allow God to exchange our life, our old ways for God's brand new! **God still takes old things, broken things, to redeem and restore them to brand new. God does this with living souls! And no one else can do this, but God can.**

It's more personal!

You may want proof, you may want facts, you may want undeniable truth, and I get that! I know now, there is overwhelming facts that Jesus lived, died and resurrected proving that He is God, and is the only way to be saved, to know God and to live with Him in eternity.

Resurrection Sunday, for those who already believe in Jesus it is not proof it's the pinnacle of hope, the ultimate fulfillment of all the promises of God in the past and the proof that the rest of His promises will come true!

Easter is the guarantee of the reality of ALL THINGS NEW.

In this life we keep staring at death, looking at things falling apart around us, looking at our world unraveling before us.

So many are looking for a way out of the pain, misery, emptiness and seeing death as their only answer. **Easter means, we do not need to look at death as the answer!**

We look for death, some may choose death as the ultimate escape, but you will not find it on Easter.

Jesus died a hauntingly horrific, humiliating death on a criminal's cross – Rome's perfected answer for law and order. Except Jesus was innocent of the criminal charges, but extraordinarily perfect for the "once-for-all" substitutionary death on behalf of the sins of humankind. Jesus was dead by 3pm, taken down, wrapped and rushed to a borrowed tomb by 6pm. **Jesus had already been pre-anointed for burial, although he would not need it.**

The rush was to lay Jesus to rest before the Sabbath began, but within a 24hr window both required by the Law. With zero preparation as to where Jesus would be buried, (not enough time to dig a grave) a friend within the group of men who ordered Jesus' death, Joseph of Arimathea arranged permission to care for Jesus' body in Joseph's family tomb. He and Nicodemus would be declared unclean, and not be able to spend the Sabbath with their own families.

Sunday morning.

Here's the good news!

Luke 24:1-8 NLT But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 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?" He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 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." Then they remembered that he had said this.

The angels nailed it! Why are we looking for dead Jesus, when we should be looking for the living Jesus.

Why were they looking for the crucified Christ when He is the resurrected Christ! It was the last horrific memory they had of him.

I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here.

Why were they looking for Jesus in the graveyard? It's the last place they saw him.

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

We may start looking for Jesus in the last horrific moments and memories of our life, but as followers of Jesus, we can't stay there! Okay, come to the tomb, visit the graveyard, bring your fears, grief and unbearable loss – but don't stay there.

Jesus isn't there. You've got to get up, leave that place, abandon that memory, wipe those tears of grief, and go find the living Savior!

Quit going back, quit living in the past, in the pain or loss. Quit living in betrayal, is obscurity or invisibility, go find Jesus, go find the life that is meant for you, the new life promised. Jesus makes everything **new, thoroughly new.**

The Apostle Paul said...

Seek the things that are above – Colossians 3:2

The old life is gone; a new life has begun – 2 Corinthians 5:17

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. – Galatians 2:20

And Jesus will say in the future...

Look, I am making everything new! – Revelation 21:5

Here's the bad news.

It is kind of sad that there are some who are hoping Jesus DID NOT come back from the dead!

Because, to them, if Jesus come back from the dead, it means that Jesus is right and is exactly who He said he is. Hope for those who believe, but accountability for those who do not want to believe.

The apostle's record that Jesus made 12 public appearances after the resurrection.

The 8th appearance was to 500 people, recorded by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the churches in Corinth (He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. 1 Corinthians 15:4-7 NLT)

Matthew 28:5-6 NLT Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

The angel in Matthew's account said, "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified."

There are folks who want to look for anything and everything but Jesus and still hope it will suffice and satisfy their soul – we were watching a popular media series where one of the leads was facing an existential crisis (exploring the human existence), when the co-worker suggested the possibility that God was real, to which they replied, "Oh no, has it come to that!"

In all the history of humankind has there been a god who became human, lived as a human and died as a human – but was resurrected back to life as a human.

God became flesh, lived among us, died for us and came back to life! God did this to show us that He keeps His Word and has provided a way back to Himself.

The angel was right! For those looking the Jesus, those searching for life will find Him!

He is risen from the dead! And because He lives, I too live.

[Bill Gaither](#), a beloved Southern Gospel singer/songwriter who was instrumental in ushering in “contemporary Christian music,” wrote a song in 1970, as he and his wife Gloria were struggling in their life, family and career as Christian performers. In an article Gloria wrote, **“The drug culture was in full swing, existential thought had obviously saturated every area of our American thought, the cities were seething with racial tension, and the God-is-dead pronouncement had giggled its way all through our educational system. On the personal front, Bill and I were going through one of the most difficult times in our lives.”** In these very dark times, Bill kept reflecting on this one phrase “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.” Bill loved the old hymn, [He Lives](#), which has this line, “He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today.” Out of months of struggle he and Gloria wrote the hit song, [“Because He Lives.”](#)

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives!**

And in 1974 it became an official songbook hymn in churches all over the world.

That song was one of my Father-in-Law’s (Robin’s Dad) hymns to sing on Easter morning. I can still hear him singing it in my head!

It is absolutely true! All that I have, all that I know and believe is **because Jesus lives!**

NOTES

[Did Jesus Really Descend to Hell Between His Death and Resurrection?](#)

[1 Peter 4:6](#), [Ephesians 4:9](#), [1 Peter 3:18-20](#), [Matthew 12:40](#), [Acts 2:31](#)

New means new.

Patch and wineskin discussion – blogpost, March 21, 2024.

They are both talking about change. Jesus knows that massive change is coming, and he also knows that “some folks” are not comfortable with it. Jesus is, in fact, introducing a whole new way of doing everything. He knows that the fulfillment of the Law and everything under the Law will look completely

different under a new freedom, and a new perspective on grace and mercy. The entire Old Testament system will go through cataclysmic change now that God has become flesh, and that God will fulfill his promises to redeem humanity!

Christianity is not a patchwork, nor an old-wine way of life. Christ did not come to patch up the Law to keep it limping along, forever failing to change our hearts. He also did not come to allow a flat, fervent-less wine to try to express the exuberant joy of walking with God. The Law was a temporary stop-gap, a burden! When we grab the ethos, thinking or application of the Old Testament Law into the new and better experience of Christ's efficacy and efficiency for our salvation, we are trying to patch God's plan.

When we keep trying to introduce the effervescent, actively expanding grace and joy of new life into the forms and confines of the Old Covenant, it will blow up! Jesus couldn't wait to introduce the fresh air of living by the Spirit but folks wanted to keep living in the caves of the law, breathing staleness of dead air! No wonder people would give up everything to follow Him! **Jesus brings life to the fullest, no longer dimmed or dinged by our sin!** Who doesn't want that? I'll tell you who. Folks who desire the guardrails of the Law, because a life in the Spirit feels like a lack of control. And it is. It's a surrendering of faith to the control of the Spirit. I'll take the new clothes of Christ and the bubbly joy of the new wine thank you!

Order of the day

Chronology of Resurrection Day

Pope— "a dozen appearances"

[St Augustine's writings on the resurrection day](#)

[Msgr. Charles Pope's timeline of resurrection day.](#)

Luke 24:8-11 NLT

Then they remembered that he had said this. So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened. It was **Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and several other women who told the apostles what had happened. But the story sounded like nonsense to the men, so they didn't believe it.**

Three women tell the eleven what they saw and heard, but the guys brushed it off as [léros], silly talk, folly or nonsense.

Peter jumped up and ran out to the tomb.

Scriptures

Matthew 28:5-6 NLT

Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. **"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here!** He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.

Mark 16:1-8 NLT

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, **"Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died." The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

[The most ancient manuscripts of Mark conclude with verse 16:8. Later manuscripts add one or both of the following endings.] [Shorter Ending of Mark] Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions. Afterward Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the sacred and unfailing message of salvation that gives eternal life. Amen. [Longer Ending of Mark]

Luke 24:1-8 NLT

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. 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? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Remember what he told you back in Galilee, 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." Then they remembered that he had said this.

John 20:1-10 NLT

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home.

Isaiah 53:9 NIV

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Internet Links

[Joseph of Arimathea](#)

All four Gospels confirm that Joseph was a disciple of Jesus Christ, although John emphasizes that this had been done secretly (John 19:38) until the time of Christ's burial. Mosaic law required that the bodies of those who were executed by hanging on a tree must not be allowed to remain on the tree overnight (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). Since Jesus' death occurred around three in the afternoon, the time for burying him before the beginning of the Sabbath at sunset was short. To make sure Jesus received a proper burial, Joseph of Arimathea boldly asked Pontius Pilate for custody of Jesus' body. Joseph's desire to properly bury the dead despite personal risk showed that he was a devout Jew. Not only did he risk ritual uncleanness by entering the quarters of a pagan, but together with Nicodemus, another Sanhedrin member, he further contaminated himself under Mosaic law, by touching a corpse.

donated his new tomb for Jesus to be buried in. This fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:9: "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth."

Isaiah 53:9 NIV

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

John 19:38-42

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (NIV)