

Easter 2021

4/4/2021

Sunday Morning

1. I can't help but think about Easter a year ago
 - a. We were locked down & you were home
2. The world has changed dramatically in the last year
 - a. For some of you – your world has changed even more in recent months
3. Think how much the world has changed since that first Easter morning
4. What is interesting is; the good news of the resurrection hasn't changed at all
5. One year ago the topic of Easter was the resurrection
6. Two thousand years ago the topic of the day was the resurrection of Christ
7. It is amazing that the details of the resurrection have not deviated
8. The meaning of the resurrection has not changed – after 2 millennia
9. Last week we celebrated the Lord's supper together
 - a. We commemorated His death

1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

10. Today we celebrate His resurrection
 1. We begin looking at Scripture starting on the 3rd day after the crucifixion
 2. Certain women have waited all week's end for Sunday morning, so they could go to the tomb
 - a. Their goal, to clean Jesus' body & anoint it for proper burial
 - b. The tomb was 2 miles from town, so they left before sunrise & arrived as the sun was coming up

Mark 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

V.2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

3. There had been an earthquake while they were going to the tomb – which moved the stone from the entrance of the tomb

Matthew 28:2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended

from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

⁴ The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

4. The guards are gone when the women arrive & they entered the tomb & saw that the body was not there

Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;

⁵ and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men* said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"

5. The angels told the women to go & tell the disciples that He had risen, so they leave

Matthew 28:6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

⁷ "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

6. The disciples didn't believe the women's story

Luke 24:10 Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

¹¹ But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them.

7. After hearing the women's story, the disciples rush to the tomb – Mary goes back to the tomb also

John 20:3 So Peter and the other disciple went forth, and they were going to the tomb.

⁴ The two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter and came to the tomb first;

⁵ and stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in.

⁶ And so Simon Peter also came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he saw the linen wrappings lying *there*,

⁷ and the face-cloth which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.

⁸ So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed.

8. Probably at this time, Christ appears to the group of women

Matthew 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

9. Back at the tomb, Mary Magdalene is left alone

a. The disciples have gone home

b. Mary believes the disciples were right – her imagination had gotten out of hand & she begins weeping, overwhelmed w/ sorrow

John 20:10 So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

¹¹ But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;

10. Mary sees Christ

John 20:15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to

be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).

11. After this Christ revealed Himself to the disciples – then to hundreds of people in the next days

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

- a. We celebrate today b/c HE is alive!

12. It might surprise you to know that, among those who have taken a serious look at the resurrection, there is a smaller percentage of skeptics than ever before

a. The reason is there are so many corroborating facts from secular witnesses

b. The majority of researchers studying that time frame, in the 70% range, according to Dr. Gary Habermas, believe in some form of a resurrection (many of these are non-Christian researchers)

c. Why are nonbelievers accepting a resurrection as a fact?

i. Because there is so much historical data about a "resurrection"

ii. They are not using biblical data as proof – but they are using proof from hostile witnesses: Roman officials, secular writings, recorded verbal testimony from secular sources

13. The Church is proof in itself

- a. How could the Church begin so quickly & successfully w/out a living Savior?
- i. No news media
 - ii. No social media
 - iii. No transit system to move people or news
 - iv. No internet – phone service – most people were illiterate
 - v. No fable spreads worldwide that quickly
14. It is b/c the Church is Christ own creation - the idea of “Church” didn’t come from man
- a. The Church is His! – It is His bride

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as a pure virgin*.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,

²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,
 - b. The Church’s is of immeasurable worth to Christ
 - i. He died for it

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,
 - ii. He is head of it

Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
 - iii. It is His body

Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

- c. Calling it His body speaks of extreme intimacy

Ephesians 5:29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does the church*,

³⁰ because we are members of His body.

³¹ FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

15. What does the resurrection mean for us today?

- a. Because He is alive – He empowers us to live w/ Him & for Him

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

- b. This is not just a relationship that we have w/ Him – it is a marriage!
c. He wants to be in a love relationship w/ us

- i. We are to be focused on Him

Colossians 3:1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- d. This is not a story of 2000 years ago – this is today's headline

- e. Because He lives we will live forever w/ Him!

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

V.14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

The invitation is to all –

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

¹³ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

You can turn to Christ today!