

04-27-14

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Title: He's Alive

Skit Guys

Nothing that has happened in all of history comes close to being as important as Jesus' resurrection...

It is b/c Jesus lives that we live

All 4 gospels deal with the Resurrection – obviously...

Different angles, different views

Not contradictions – perfect harmony

Each chooses different elements to emphasize, each has a different intent

Matthew's focus is on a group of women

The first to see the risen Messiah

What an emotional roller coaster this week had been

For all of them – the disciples and the women...

From the high point of Jesus entering Jerusalem on that little donkey, and the Last Supper

To the lowest point of the arrest, trial and the crucifixion

They start this new week about as low as you can get

And, in a short amount of time

They are at the highest point you could ever be

New Day

Matthew 28:1

Sabbath is Saturday

This is the day after – we call it Sunday
For the Jews – it is day 1 after Sabbath

Jesus had been in the tomb since Friday

All day Saturday, the Sabbath
And now part of Sunday – after Sabbath
Three days He's been dead

Early in the day – just as the sun is coming up
First day of the week, Sunday...

This event, the resurrection is so important

The day of worship is changed...
We go from resting from creation
To the celebration of Jesus' resurrection

Matthew 28:1

...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave

This is only a partial list – other Gospels fill it in for us
These women had ministered w/ Jesus in Galilee
They had provided food, money, resources as He and disciples did their traveling
They had been there at the cross
When disciples (except John) were gone
They were there when He was buried

Now, why are they here?

Jesus had said many times He would rise on the 3rd day – did they believe and were there to see...

Nope
They came *to see the grave*
Sad, dejected...

Mark 16 tells us they were there to finish what they started on Friday – before the Sabbath started...

Mark 16:1

...bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

They were there out of respect, out of devotion
Anoint His dead body, one last time
Just a little more they could do
They didn't have faith or confidence in His resurrection – but they had devotion
Their final act of love, they thought...

Mark tells us they were walking along talking, discussing what to do about the stone, how to move it, how to roll it away so they can get in...

Opening the tomb

Matthew 28:2

Another earthquake...

2nd one in three days

There was one when Jesus died...

The center of this earthquake is the tomb

An earthquake caused by the angel

The angel that was sent to open the tomb

The angel didn't move the stone to let Jesus out
Think about it for a minute...

He has the power to raise from the dead
and needs help to move the stone???

Nope!!!

The angel came to open the tomb so we can see in

Just like Jesus went through the walls when the disciples
were meeting – He was gone from the tomb

The women go and look in the tomb

Peter and John look in

John actually looks in and believes...

What they saw was the linen wrappings – just like they
left them, only w/o a body in them

They didn't see the wrappings thrown around the
room by someone hurrying to steal His body

His body had gone right through them

Matthew 28:3

His appearance (the angels) was like lightning...

Bright, shining, blazing glory

White as snow – think we get that one...

The new snow, not the old snow...

His assignment – to announce Jesus' resurrection

Matthew 28:4

The guards – the soldiers sent to guard the tomb

Guard the tomb with their lives

These big, rough, tough guards...

Shaking in their boots

Trembling – like Dorothy before the wizard

Like the cowardly lion...

Shaking so hard they froze, passed out...

The earthquake was over, but the guards kept shaking
The sight of this angel so terrified
The sight of this angel was so unexpected
The sight of this angel was so out of their realm of
thought...
They passed out from fear...

Don't be afraid

Matthew 28:5-6

Interesting thought – the guards didn't know Jesus – no
relationship w/ Him

They were not offered comfort, help w/ their fear
The guards pass out – no help for them...

The women on the other hand...

Wondering how to move the stone...
There to anoint Jesus' body one last time...

The women were afraid too, the angel speaks to them
Says what angels usually say to us humans
Don't be afraid...

I know why you're here

You're looking for Jesus
The One who was crucified, the One who died
He is not here
He has risen, He has resurrected
He has come back to life

Jesus was dead...

The soldiers knew it – experts at death and dying
They didn't break His legs
They could already tell He was dead
Pierced Him w/ a spear instead

Joseph and Nicodemus and the women knew He
was dead also – they'd cared for His body –
handled it, wrapped it, covered it w/ spices
They would've known if there was life
There was none

He was dead
Now He has raised, He has resurrected
He has risen!

He has risen – just like He said He would
Simple, yet profound statement
He's not here, He has risen
Greek – He is raised

It's over...He's gone...
He's alive just like He said...

Luke 24:8

8 And they remembered His words,
Finally they remembered what He said
They weren't there b/c they remembered
It took an earthquake, an angel, and an
empty tomb – now they remember
They didn't get it before – they get it now...

Come, see the place where He was lying
Come on in, see for your selves
I opened the tomb – come and look

Luke tells us the angel showed the inside to them...
See, He's not here, He has risen
A little hard for them to understand
How many people do you know that have
been resurrected?

I don't think we'd get it the first time either
Jesus is not here, He is no longer dead
He has risen, He is alive

Great joy

Matthew 28:8

The angel said go – they went – they went quickly
They went w/ fear
Also w/ great joy...

They had been so sad, depressed, despondent...
The disciples were in hiding
The ladies were there – sadder that you
could imagine...

*Ever have a big disappointment in your life?
Planning on something for a long time
Only to have it fall through...
Working towards something, hoping, waiting for it
Only to have it come crashing down
For some of us a career, a special relationship...
Tell a story on Mindee, don't think she'd mind
In H.S. in Nebraska she was a cheerleader
Made it onto the squad freshman year
She loved it – perhaps thought a little more of her
ability than was real – still she was good
And she loved it...
Sophomore year tryouts came*

She practiced hard, had it down

She'd done it last year

She did well on her tryout – better than many of the others trying out (I'm not biased at all 😊)

She just knew she had made it again

And then they announced the winners...

She didn't make it

We were all stunned – not a happy time...

It was a great loss for her

Many future plans were dashed

Still don't know how...

God was/is in control

Looking back we see how God used this

Really worked in her life

Still...at the time...it was a huge loss

For these ladies, at the tomb, it was even bigger loss

Their eternity, their hope for the future had died on the cross – they knew He was special, different from anyone else – they just knew He was the One

Everything was going to change

And then...

The unthinkable happened...

He was arrested

He was tried

He was beaten

He was crucified

He died

But, He was the Messiah, He had to be and...He's
dead...how could this be
Huge loss, great sadness

This news the angel gave them...
He is risen from the dead...

Could it be...

Is this really possible...

I can imagine the further they ran, the faster they got
This news began to dawn on them...

He isn't dead – He had been...

But now, He is risen, He is alive

And then...

Matthew 28:9

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

Here He is – Jesus – the One they loved...

Right there – it really is true – He really is alive

Just an ordinary greeting – Hey, ladies, how's it goin'
What could they do...

Here He is, right before them...

He really is alive...

There's only one response possible...

Worship Him

Fall down at His feet and worship Him

They were overwhelmed with wonder

Overwhelmed with joy...

This Jesus they saw die and was dead...

The tomb is empty

The angels said He has risen

Now... Here He is!

This was the Man they loved..

This was God, raised from the dead

He is their Lord, He is their God

He is alive – He has risen from the dead

Spread the news

Matthew 28:7

This news is too good to keep to yourselves

Don't stand around here

Get out – tell the news

Tell His disciples – they need to know

Question to think about...

Do women who never expected a resurrection...

Make up a resurrection story?

Not at all likely...

Do disciples who never expected a resurrection make it all up? And then most die as martyrs

For a fabricated story – I don't think so...

Those disciples who had totally deserted Him in the garden – who couldn't even show up for His crucifixion

Even the one who had betrayed Him

Quick – they need this news

Don't let them be in the dark any more

Matthew 28:10

Don't be afraid

Take the word – go tell

This is too great of news to keep it to yourself

Let the disciples know

Let the world know

Jesus, God's Son, God in the flesh

Lived and died and rose again

The price has been paid

Repent and trust in Jesus as your Savior

Conclusion:

What does the resurrection mean to us today?

- God's word is true

Jesus said again and again, He would rise

He would rise on the third day

Exactly what He did

- Jesus is God, God in human flesh

He has power over death

- Salvation is complete

On the cross He conquered sin, death and hell

Then He rose victorious

What greater joy can there be

Jesus died in our place – He paid the penalty for
our sin

When we repent and trust Him

We will also be raised from the dead

Eternal life is made available through Him!

He's alive, He's alive

He's alive and I'm forgiven

Heaven's gates are open wide

He's alive!

Benediction:

Matthew 28:6-7

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;*

Sermon outline

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Matthew 28:1-10

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Opening the t_____

Don't be a_____

Great j_____

Spread the n_____