

Just As He Said

Matthew 28:1-9 (NKJV)

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." 8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.

This is a different type of Easter Sunday for every one.

For the first time since the founding of this nation, our church buildings set empty on Easter Sunday.

But that hasn't changed the facts of the passage that we just read.

Jesus is still risen just as he said.

Many people are facing desperate challenges today but the fact of the resurrection is still true.

That is what is so great about this passage. No matter how much things change or the trials that we go through, the Lord is still risen just as He said.

Since so many of us are just about at our wits end with all the sheltering in place and the constant wail of the news programs, I want to find something positive for us to hang onto in these days.

- I. I think we could say that the last days before His burial were kind of dark and hopeless.
 - A. He was betrayed by one of His close disciples.
 1. Jesus knew this was going to happen and all the other things that would befall Him.
 2. Matthew 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.
 - B. He was denied by His strongest supporter.
 1. Matthew 26:34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."
 - C. All the disciples forsook Him and fled.
 - D. His enemies had gotten the upper hand and delivered Him to Pilate.

- E. Although Pilate tried to let Him go, Pilate could not.
 - F. He was beaten, mocked, crucified.
 - G. He was buried in a borrowed tomb.
 - 1. When you set the feelings of that hour over against the feelings we have in the resurrection, there is no comparison.
- II. But all that was according to God's plan.
- A. Why would God allow these terrible things to happen to His Son.
 - 1. It was possible for it to happen any other way.
 - a. God loved us, the sinners and only the blood and death of the perfect Son of God could take away our sin.
 - b. Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou [wilt].
 - B. Why would God ordain all those terrible things to happen to His Son.
 - 1. It was not because God did not love His Son or was displeased with Him.
 - 2. It was that the Lamb of God should take away the sin of the world.
 - 3. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
 - 4. Hebrews 9:26 . . . but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
 - C. It was God's plan.
 - 1. His plan to save you and me from our sin.
 - a. Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — 23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.
 - 2. So that He could deliver us from the captivity of the Devil.
 - 3. So that He could set us free.
 - D. And because that was not the end of the story.

1. As daylight drew to a close on that crucifixion day, it seemed pretty grim for the followers of the carpenter from Galilee.
2. From all outward appearances it looked like the end.
3. And if we were watching the story of Jesus for the first time, we might have that uneasy feeling that this cannot be the end.
4. And we would have been right.

III. What does His resurrection mean?

A. For those early disciples.

1. It meant that Jesus was just who He said that He was.
 - a. The Son of God.
 - b. The Savior of the world.
 - (1) Luke 19:10 “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - (2) John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.
2. Man’s only hope to escape the judgment of God.
 - a. John 14:6 (NKJV) 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - b. Acts 4:12 (NKJV) 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

B. That God had accepted the sacrifice for sin that Jesus offered to God.

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C. That death had been conquered.

D. That He had secured the resurrection of all those who would trust in Him.

E. That our eternal home is sure.

F. That we are not as those who have no hope.