

Message Notes

“Tell People . . . the Truth”

Matthew 28:11-15 (ESV)

Easter Sunday – April 16, 2017

He Is Not Risen: The Denial that Occurs

◆ The Skepticism of the Critics

“If I were an enemy of Christianity, I would aim right at the Resurrection, because that is the heart of Christianity.” (Billy Graham)

“The tales of entombment and resurrection were latter-day wishful thinking. Instead, Jesus’ corpse went the way of all abandoned criminals’ bodies: it was probably barely covered with dirt, vulnerable to the wild dogs that roamed the wasteland of the execution grounds.” (Robert Funck)

◆ The Struggle of the Faint-Hearted (1 Corinthians 15)

◆ Is Our Faith Useless?

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile . . . (1 Corinthians 15:17a)

“Neutrality is not an option. Either Jesus rose and rightly demands your attention, repentance, trust and obedience, or He stayed dead. If He only became a rotting corpse, why should you follow Him?” (John MacArthur)

◆ Do Our Sins Remain?

. . . and you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17b)

◆ Are Our Loved Ones Gone Forever?

Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. (1 Corinthians 15:18)

◆ Are We Pathetic?

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19)

◆ The Certainty of the Faithful

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)

◆ Facts Underlie Faith

◆ We Are Forgiven

◆ We Will See Our Loved Ones in Christ

◆ Our Future Is Hopeful and Certain

He Was Risen: The Details We Observe

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. . . . But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.” . . . So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. (Matthew 28:1, 5-6, 8)

◆ **The Leading Ladies: What Significance They Were Shown**

- ◆ **Some Traveled with Jesus**
- ◆ **Some Taught By Jesus**
- ◆ **Some Testified of Jesus**

◆ **The Lying Leaders: What Shame They Deserved**

While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, "Tell people, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."
(Matthew 28:11-14)

◆ **The Guards Confessed Their Experience at the Resurrection**

◆ **The Leaders Continued Their Resistance with the Resurrection**

"And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us."
(Luke 16:26)

- ◆ **By Silencing Eyewitnesses**
- ◆ **By Spreading Disinformation**
- ◆ **By Supplying Protection**

He Is Alive: The Distinction It Offers

◆ **A Persuasive Apologetic**

"It is a simple fact that throughout the history of the church, the single most important witness to the resurrection of Jesus has been the witness of the risen Christ within the heart of the believer!"

(Robert Stein)

"Jesus is not a memory, but a presence. . . . Jesus is not someone to discuss so much as someone to meet. The Christian life is not the life of (someone) who *knows about* Jesus, but the life of (the one) who *knows* Jesus. . . . The greatest scholar in the world who knows everything about Jesus is less than the humblest Christian who knows Him."

(William Barclay)

◆ **A Power Available**

◆ **To Live for Christ**

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ . . . that I may know him and the power of his resurrection.
(Philippians 3:7-8, 10a)

◆ **As He Lives in Us**

"For believers, the resurrection is a present reality known and anticipatively experienced in daily fellowship with the risen Jesus. From the ascended Christ, His followers received the indwelling Spirit outpoured at Pentecost; so, too, they still receive from Him the Spirit's daily filling, and, by the Spirit, taste even now the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:5)."
(Carl Henry)

"After we are justified, once for all through faith in Christ, we are to live in supernatural communion with the Lord every moment; we are to be like lights plugged into an electric socket. The Bible makes it plain that our joy and spiritual power depend on a continuing relation to God."
(Francis Schaeffer)

*“Come to worship to be in the presence of the living God,
to hear from Him, and, yes, be touched by His power.
Seek each day this week to give outward expression to these words:
‘You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!’”*

(Pastor Dave)