

JESUS

Matthew 28:1-10

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Now that we have completed our journey through Lent and reached the glory of Easter morning, let's consider how the events and characters of the Holy Week story resonated with each of us. **What did you learn about yourself during Lent, and how did God change your heart? How did you see yourself through Caiaphas, Judas, the sleeping disciples, Peter, and Pilate?**

Matthew wrote the account of Jesus' death and resurrection knowing that the miraculous and unbelievable nature of the events certainly would be questioned. The description of the people, locations, and timing of the events were presented in such a way that they could be fact-checked and proven to be true. **How does the miracle of Jesus' death and resurrection sit with you? How does reading Matthew's account reaffirm to you this powerful act of God that changes humankind forever?**

When Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene the the other Mary after His resurrection He says to them, "Do not be afraid.." Because the tomb was empty, and Jesus conquered death, we receive the amazing gift of eternal life and we no longer need to fear death. It is overwhelming for us to grasp this gift and accept that we no longer need to be frightened of **anything** that we experience in life. Jesus has experienced the worst of what you and I could ever endure, and He promises to be with us as we go through our own trials. **Of what are you most frightened? How does the empty tomb change that for you, and help you release that fear? How can you hold this truth of Jesus' resurrection and love close to you as we move forward from Easter?**