

More Than Ever

Foundations

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. And 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

With all the challenges of this past year, the message and hope of Easter has never been so desperately needed. But some might argue that the message of Easter is not real, dependable, or concrete enough to place all our hope. ***Have you longed for something more concrete to cling to? Ponder how we, as Christians, claim Easter as the defining moment in human history.***

The details of Jesus' life, crucifixion, and resurrection as found in both the Gospels and the Apostles' Creed beg all to investigate if this claim of our faith is true or not. The Creed helped the first church verbally articulate what it means to be a Christian, especially given the largely illiterate culture of the time. No other claim or creed has survived the test of time, and has consequently given our faith the wings to spread. Read the entire Apostles' Creed either out loud to yourself, or with your small group. ***How do the details of this story remind and encourage you that life overcomes death, and love is more powerful than hate? How does this "change everything" for you?***

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the truth of Easter that indeed hope wins, life wins, justice wins, grace wins, and truth wins. May we cling to You, and to your promise to us through Jesus that love and life are stronger than hatred and death. May we live differently because of what we claim as truth. Amen.