



The Resurrected Life - Easter 2024

Matthew 28:1-10

1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

This sermon unpacks the implications of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are invited into a relationship with God – a relationship that changes everything. The key to this relationship is having faith in Jesus.

The promise of the resurrection for us is two-fold. We are given hope that we will be physically resurrected and given a new body one day (Philippians 3:21). We are given hope of spiritual resurrection here and now (Romans 6:5).

This spiritual resurrection has many implications, but I will discuss three primary ones this morning.

Fear of death is exchanged for hope of life.
Lack of love is exchanged for indescribable love
Despair is traded for profound hopefulness

Questions:

Do you have true faith in Jesus?

What did you think of the story of John Wesley and this idea that freedom from fear of death is one of the fruits of relationship with God?

Who do you know that struggles with feeling unloved?

Have you ever had a time when you felt despair? What did you do?

