

**Resurrection Changes Everything!**  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**April 5, 2026**

He is risen! Open your Bibles to Matthew 28 today. I know many of you are struggling to stay awake this morning so I'll do my best to help you, God willing. You may have heard about the fellow who fell asleep in church one Sunday. He heard the preacher say, "Stand up!" so he did. All the people clapped, and then the pastor said who else will give \$5,000 for our missions." I pray that the good news of Jesus' resurrection will keep you awake this morning!

We're going to leave Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac today to stand on the pinnacle of the Christian message. Say Resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus Christ sets Christianity apart from every other religion, philosophy, and belief system in the world. No other religion has a leader who rose from the dead. No other religion has a teacher who suffered and died for their followers and then miraculously reappeared after death. We won't take time this morning to prove the resurrection, most of you already believe it or you wouldn't be here, unless you just like sausage gravy. Many books have been written by lawyers, physicians, and others who set out to disprove the resurrection only to find the evidence for it is overwhelming. Several of these are in our library and our apologetics speakers have spoken numerous times on this. There's even a book in your Bible written by a physician who carefully researched all the facts and interviewed eyewitnesses. Dr. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24.

So this morning, not to prove it's true, but because it's true, we celebrate it. And to see how the resurrection of Jesus Christ impacts and affects everything else. It colors every other belief and sweetens every other pot. It inspires our witnessing and infuses fearlessness into our obedience. It comforts our losses and confirms our truth. The resurrection of Jesus Christ can never be overemphasized. So let's first read Matthew's account of it. If you are able, stand. Matt 28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. 5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They

came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

I know some of you wish these ladies had waited til a little later in the day to go to the tomb because if they had, we wouldn't have sunrise services, right? Their love for Jesus compelled them to come as I pray it has compelled you to come here this morning also. They, however, were not coming to celebrate His resurrection like you and me. No, they were coming to complete His burial that they didn't have time to finish on Friday evening before the Sabbath. They surely came with tears still in their eyes, hearts still heavy in their chests, and hope still shattered in a million splinters. They came in grief. But they did not leave that way.

Having encountered the angel, and having heard that Jesus was alive, they left the tomb entirely differently than they came. In duty and obligation they came. In grief and sadness they trudged through the predawn darkness to the tomb that Sunday morning. But they didn't leave that way. They hurried away afraid, yet filled with joy! What changed? The truth that Jesus was not there, He is risen! That truth also changed the rest of their lives and the rest of the lives of the other disciples as well. And when we really and truly believe it, it will change our lives too! Jesus' resurrection changes everything! Let's look at some of these changes.

Jesus' resurrection changes the way we worship. Say worship. For starters we met at 6:30 this morning. But the other major difference is that we worship on Sundays, not Saturdays as the Jews have ever since Sinai. Why do we worship on the first day of the week? Because Jesus rose on the first day of the week! The early believers began to meet on the first day of the week, and we continue to do so today. Every Sunday is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection! He is risen!

Which also means we have One worthy of our worship! Say worthy. We don't worship a god who is weak and powerless, we have One who defeated sin, death, hell, and the grave! We have One who conquered mankind's worst enemies and Who offers that same victory to every person! We don't worship Buddha or Krishna laying in some grave somewhere, we don't even worship the cross or the empty tomb, we worship the One came out of that tomb! No one else and nothing else is worthy of our worship. Only He who overcame all. He is risen!

Which also should affect the attitude of our worship. Say attitude. Coming to church each Sunday is not a matter of habit or ritual drudgery. That's the way the ladies came TO the tomb that morning. But we all now live on the other side of the resurrection and we ought to come with great excitement and expectation! With overflowing joy and gratitude. With awe and reverence for the One who went to Hell for us and returned in victory. We ought to have the same attitude in our worship as these women who, when they met Jesus leaving the tomb, fell at His feet to grasp and cherish Him! To glorify and

treasure Him! May we do the same! This will cause our singing to be real and rich and devoted to Him. It will cause our prayers to be filled with awe and gratitude and love. It will cause our giving to be a generous response to all He's given us. It will cause our preaching and hearing to be acts of responsive love. Why should we not be filled with inexpressible joy and do our very best to show it every way we possibly can? In hushed prayer, in exuberant singing, in heartfelt awe and in reverent holy Christ centered worship. He is Risen!

We fawn over famous athletes who win super bowls, world series and gold medals. We spend much money and travel great distances to hear famous musicians and entertainers swooning to see them in person. And then we come to church with no more excitement than a mule looking at a new gate. People, He is risen! All these others have no power over death and they can't do a single thing to get you out of your grave. Only Jesus! And knowing about His resurrection should change the way we worship every Sunday and enliven it immeasurably. Knowing such a Savior and all He's done for us should motivate us to be present each Sunday we are physically able with other believers. Not out of drudgery or obligation, but out of gratitude and praise celebrating the truth that we have the privilege to worship the God of the universe who loves us, died for us, and rose again to give us eternal life. Even if we don't feel like coming, as I'm sure those ladies didn't FEEL like going to the tomb, amazing things happen when we honor Jesus Christ! He is risen!

One of things we do in worship is to read, hear, meditate on and preach the Word of God. Say Bible. Jesus' resurrection should change the way we read the Bible. That morning outside Jerusalem, Old Testament prophecies about His resurrection were all fulfilled. If God can do the hardest thing, He can certainly do all the rest He's promised! Jesus' resurrection should deepen our belief and trust in God's promises, in His word. God keeps His Word! And then when we come to the New Testament it should change the way we read, hear, and believe it too! Jesus knows what He's talking about! Love your enemies. Serve your brothers. Care for the helpless, etc. He is risen!

Earlier in His ministry Jesus proclaimed He was the bread of life and the water of life. If a man eats of Him, He said, he would not die. He proclaimed that He was the resurrection and the life. On Thursday night around the Last Supper, He said, I am the way, the truth, and the **life** and, "Because I live, you also will live." But then He died the next afternoon so that pretty much cancelled out everything He said about life. All their hopes and all their trust were wrapped up in His linen laying inside that cold dark tomb. End of story, end of life, end of Messiah, end of hope. Until Sunday morning! Until His resurrection! And His resurrection validated everything else He said! If I showed you I could do calculus, would you believe me if I said I could do simple addition? If I showed you a picture of me on top of Mt. Everest, would you doubt I could climb the Massanutten? Jesus has done the hardest thing He ever promised! And He can certainly

do all the rest. Jesus is Who He claimed to be and deserves our attention, our obedience, and our worship. He is risen!

The resurrection also changes the way we pray. Say pray. We have a God who not only has power to heal our bodies, but to raise them! What then is impossible for God? Nothing! We cannot ask Him to do anything impossible because nothing is! If He can roll away His own tombstone, there's no other rock too big for Him to move! No task too hard for us to ask Him to do! We can pray with faith believing for our loved ones who suffer, who face surgery, etc. We can pray with faith believing for our families and our jobs and our finances. And we must pray with intensity and earnestness for our friends and relatives who have not yet accepted this new life from Jesus. He is risen!

Resurrection also changes the way we approach death, our own as well as others'. Say death. About a week before Jesus died, He told Martha in John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." Then He added, "Do you believe this?" That was before the resurrection. We have every good reason to believe it now after He actually rose! Jesus told His disciples numerous times He would rise from the dead and then He did it. So I ask you as Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?" When you do, it changes everything!

Because Jesus rose from death, it means death is not final. It's not the end of us, of our existence. If you're diagnosed with a fatal dread disease, it's not your end. I'm reading Lee Strobel's book Seeing the Supernatural which gives many examples of people who died and were resuscitated and what they experienced which line up exactly with what Jesus' says. There is life after death! And for those who trust in Jesus, it will be our best life ever! Our best life is not now. It's later! Jesus told us He was going to get a place ready for us and when it was ready, He would come again and take us to be with Him that where He is, we might be also. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He can certainly do this as well! He's coming back! Because of the resurrection, you can believe in Heaven! He is risen!

Which also should change the way we approach our own death, not with fear, but with even a longing for a life that is so much better than this one. Jesus took the sting out of death, He removed fear for those who trust in Him. Be sure to read the article on this month's Antioch newsletter on Killer bees. Death can't kill you! 1 Peter 1:3-4 that we shared already, "In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you! It can't perish, spoil, or fade! There's still much we do not know about our resurrected bodies, our existence in heaven, and life everlasting. But from what we do know, there's enough to make us long for it more than anything else in this world. Someone once observed that if Jesus told us everything about heaven, people would be jumping off buildings to get there. So while it

is an amazing existence, a pain-free presence with God, an eternal blessing, we are not to hasten our own, or anyone else's entry into it. But we should not think death is our end. It's only our beginning! He is risen!

Which also changes grief and funerals for those who are saved. Say grief. Will we miss them? Sure. He we didn't love them, we wouldn't care. I especially miss my mom and dad and brother and Nancy's mom,. But we don't grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We have the sure hope, the assurance of the resurrection! Because they died in Jesus and because I trust in Jesus, I will see them again! And I can't wait! Our human existence is not a tragedy, nor a comedy, nor a farce, but a drama that is going somewhere! It is headed toward a culmination, a high point of resolution when all wrongs will be judged, all rights rewarded, all truth revealed, all suffering eliminated. So we do grieve and mourn, but we grieve and mourn knowing they live on and that we will assuredly see them again one day. Because He is risen!

Which also should change the way we live right now. It means that money and power and fame and pleasure are not the most important things in life, just as Jesus said. They will all pass away. Instead of living for these things that will perish, we should live for those things that are eternal. If Jesus rose, and He did, His teachings deserve our complete attention and obedience! His resurrection should affect our moods and our attitudes, for no matter how bad our day is going, He is risen! Do you believe Jesus really rose from the dead? Do you believe He will raise you from the dead? Tell your face! Let your emotions know it and show it!

And let your mouth tell it! Say witness. After learning the truth about the risen Savior, these two women became courageous witnesses sharing the good news with others. We should do the same! In Acts 13:46, Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you!" We have do the same! We must tell others. If we love and care about them. The ladies were told to come and see and then, go and tell!

The disciples were persecuted and even killed for doing so. We might be too. Nevertheless, we must tell! If we're gossiped about or lied about, none of that matters for it will all be made right one day! If you are locked up in an Iranian prison and the key is thrown away, it's not the end. If you're fired from your job, if you're expelled from your family, if you're kicked off the team, if you're disabled or disrespected, none of that matters eternally! Because none of those things are eternal! What's the worst they could do to you? Kill you? Boom, straight into glory! The truth of the resurrection empowers us to witness with great confidence even as it did those ladies and then all the disciples! He is risen!

As we think about how Jesus' Resurrection changes everything, I'd like to close with an illustration about gravity. Say gravity. Because Gravity is true, we can jump. We can build roads and drive cars. We can build homes and perform surgeries. It makes our ink

pens work and our toilets flush. It is a bedrock truth of our existence and an assumption that affects nearly every physical thing we do, even though we seldom, if ever, stop to consider gravity itself. In a similar way, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ impacts and affects all that we do. For a Christian, it is an underlying assumption that changes the way we worship, pray, read, obey, grieve, witness and live. If you doubt the resurrection, hear Jesus' rebuke both of Thomas and the other disciples who refused to believe at first. Do your research to find the truth. For if Jesus has not risen, none of this is true and our lives are a hopeless existence with nothing but pain and heartache. But, my friends, it is true! And because it's true, it changes every other thing in our lives! And it even makes staying awake so early in worship this morning worthwhile. He is risen!