

Resurrection Sunday A full Room & an Empty Tomb

Intro: I find it ironic that when Jesus was born we could find no room for Him in the Inn... But when he died, we easily found room for Him in a tomb.

When He fulfilled the Ancient prophecies and was born in Bethlehem only the lowly, and foreign people believed in Him...

- Shepherds who were unwelcome in town woke the town up with great tidings of joy...
- Wise men from the East disturbed the entire capitol City with their arrival and search for the New King...
 - They upset the City SO much, **that politicians began telling lies...**
 - After their departure the King commemorated the birth of Christ by murdering the children of Bethlehem.
 - Of course... All of this was foretold by the Prophets centuries before the Lord was born.

The Prophets also foretold of the week that we have just finished, The Passion Week, Easter week...

- The week began with the Triumphal Entry...
 - It was **Prophesied** by the Prophet Zechariah...
 - **Zechariah 9:9** - "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.
 - It was **fulfilled** in **Luke 19**
- Then there was the sleepy prayer meeting in the Garden...
 - The betrayal of Jesus by His friends...
 - The trial... The false testimony...
- Pontius Pilot and his infamous statement, "I find no fault in Him!"

But then, afraid to take a stand against the overwhelming tide of hate and suspicion against Jesus Christ, The officials agreed to crucify Jesus...

Beloved, this too was Prophesied centuries before.... Listen to the 22nd Psalm...

[14](#) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. [15](#) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. [16](#) Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me; they have pierced my hands and my feet. [17](#) I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. [18](#) They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. [19](#) But you, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. **Psalm 22:14-19**

The fulfillment of this Prophecy is recorded in all four Gospels... As is the resurrection of Christ... We love to read John's version because he is a Teenager who is very close to the Lord.... He is also the fastest Disciple as we will learn...

John 20

The Empty Tomb

- 1 Now the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

I think that Mary went to where the Disciples were in hiding and that Peter was the door keeper...

- He was the oldest Disciple...
- He was the meanest Disciple...
- IE, Peter opened the door when a frantic woman began pounding on the door!
- Peter takes off running..... Did I mention that he was the oldest?

3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. 4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*,

7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. 9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Ask yourself.... What did the two Disciples just see?

- A crime scene?
- Or a resurrection scene?
- Thieves would have hastily grabbed the body and run...
- But what Peter and John saw was the aftermath of a calm serene event. So serene that the handkerchief that had covered Jesus' face was even folded and neatly set aside.
- Nobody stole anything from that Tomb...
 - But Jesus DID cheat death!

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not

know where they have laid Him." 14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.

15 Jesus said to her, "**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "**Mary!**" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

17 Jesus said to her, "**Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'**"

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

I love that Mary immediately gets clingy...

- **She makes the decision to spend the day just worshipping at the feet of Jesus....**
- **As far as she is concerned... Her appointments are cancelled...**
- **At the feet of her Savior is where she will stay...**
- **Jesus tenderly tells her...**
 - **Uh, Mare?" We both have the Father's business to be about...**
 - **Go tell those brave Disciples of mine that I will visit them later.**
- **Friends, I hope that you too like to cling to the Lord in worship, BUT, we too have the Father's business to be about as well!**

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" 20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they

saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

Who can forgive sins? God alone!

- So Jesus is telling the Disciples that if they will go like He was sent and preach... People WILL get saved.
- If they refuse to go... People will not get saved...
- Fortunately, Every one of them obeyed and the work they began we continue to this day...
- Some got a slower start than others as we will see...

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Thomas, who had witnessed Jesus raise the dead... Couldn't believe that Jesus had defeated death for good...

- IF indeed Jesus had done that... Everything would be different now...
- Thomas wanted it to be true... The others had seen it already...
- But the faith to accept the other's word was not in Thomas...
- Perhaps he prayed the prayer of the Grateful Father in Mark 9 - "I believe... Help my unbelief!"

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your

finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Friend, If you too have had trouble believing in God's salvation.... This would be a good time to follow Thomas' GOOD example and call out to God: "My Lord and My God, Save me!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Our Prayer at Calvary Chapel Simi Valley is that you may " believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

Don't be like the Inn Keeper who turned Him away....

Make room for Him in your heart.