

GOOD NEWS FOR THE GRAVEYARD

TEXT: MATTHEW 28: 1-10

INTRODUCTION: WE GO TO A CEMETARY WITH ONE OF TWO OBJECTIVES IN MIND: THE FIRST IS TO COMMIT A BODY TO GROUND AS PART OF THE BURIAL PROCESS, THE PROCESS OF SAYING GOODBYE FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME, WITH THE HOPE OF SEEING THEM AGAIN. AND SECOND TO VISIT A GRAVESITE WHERE SOME LOVED-ONE OR FRIEND HAS BEEN LAID TO REST. WE GO THERE TO REFRESH OUR MEMORIES ABOUT THE PERSON WHO IS HAS BEEN BURIED THERE WITH THE IDEA THAT IF OUR MEMORIES ARE REFRESHED, THAT PERSON IS NOT REALLY DEAD BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN OUR MEMORIES. THE BODY MIGHT BE IN THE GROUND, THE BODY MIGHT BE DECOMPOSING, THE BODY MIGHT BE ABSENT, BUT THE MEMORIES CAUSE THE PERSON TO LIVE ON IN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS IF NO OTHER PLACE.

MEMORIES ARE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US TO KEEP OUR LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS ALIVE. BUT IN THE SCRIPTURE WE HAVE READ TODAY THE PERSON WHO THESE WOMEN CAME TO HONOR WITH A PROPER BURIAL DID NOT NEED A PROPER BURIAL. HE WAS ALIVE!

I. CHRIST'S DIETY AND OUR LIMITATIONS

- A. MARY MAGDALENE WHO JESUS HAS CAST OUT 7 DEVILS MARK 16:9 CAME WITH ANOTHER MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES THE LESS, SALOME, AND JOSES (MARK 15:40) CAME TO HONOR HIM WITH A PROPER BURIAL PROCESS
- B. LOVE IS A RECIPROCAL THING, WHEN SOMEONE GIVES A GIFT OF LOVE YOU FEEL YOU MUST RETURN THE GESTURE
- C. THERE GESTURE OF LOVE WAS TO HONOR HIS HUMANITY
- D. ALL OF US KNOW THAT AS PART OF OUR HUMANITY, WE WILL DIE JUST LIKE HE DID UNLESS WE ARE PART OF THE RAPTURED SAINTS
- E. HIS HUMANITY IS ENDED WITH HIS DEATH
- F. HE CAN IDENTIFY WITH OUR INFIRMITIES BECAUSE OF HIS HUMANITY DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY

- G. THE BODY HE WAS RAISED WITH WAS NOT A NATURAL BODY, BUT SUPERNATURAL, THAT COULD COME THROUGH ROCK.
- H. AND NOW HIS DIETY IS FULLY EXPOSED AS NO LONGER DOES HE HAVE A BODY SUBJECT TO ALL THE LIMITATIONS WE ARE LIMITED BY.
- I. THE WOMEN WERE LIMITED BY THE STONE IN FRONT OF THE SEPULCHRE.
- J. FOR EVERY LIMITATION THAT WE FIND IN OUR WAY WHILE WORKING FOR THE LORD AND BESTOWING HONOR UPON HIM, GOD ALWAYS SEND RESOURCES IN NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL GUISES.
- K. THE STONE WAS A LIMITATION AND GOD SENT AN ANGEL, NOT FOR CHRIST, BUT FOR WOMEN SO THEY COULD SEE INSIDE A EMPTY TOMB.
- L. SO THEY HAD A MESSAGE TO GO FORTH WITH—HE'S ALIVE!!!

II. HUMAN RESISTANCE TO GOD'S PLAN

- A. UNREGENERATE MAN ALWAYS WANTS TO FIND A WAY TO EXPLAIN GOD OUT OF THEIR LIVES.
- B. THEY HAD NO BELIEF IN CHRIST BUT CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT HIS DISCIPLES MAY DO THEY CONVINCED PILATE TO PLACE A GUARD IN FRONT OF THE TOMB.
- C. AND AFTER THE RESURRECTION THOSE WHO GUARDED THE TOMB AND HAD WITNESSED WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, THEY SPOKE TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS,
- D. A LIE WAS ORCHESTRATED TO KEEP THE GUARD FROM FACING EXECUTION, TO ALLOW THE CHIEF PRIEST TO KEEP FACE WITH THE PEOPLE. VS 14-15
- E. IRREGARDLESS OF HOW MANY GUARDS WERE PLACED AT THE TOMB, NOTHING COULD STOP THE PLAN OF GOD, OR KEEP CHRIST IN A TOMB.
- F. BUT THERE ARE MANY TODAY WHO USE DENIABILITY AS AN EXCUSE JUST AS THE CHIEF PRIESTS DID HERE IN THIS PASSAGE.

- G. WHEN GOD ORDAINS SOMETHING TO COME INTO EXISTENCE, MANKIND HAS NO ABILITY TO STOP, MUCH LIKE SPEAKING THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE.**
- H. WHEN HE CALLS YOUR NAME NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE
- I. AND NOTHING CAN EXPLAIN THAT AWAY.,WHEN YOU HEAR HIS VOICE. WHETHER IT IS THE RESURRECTION TO LIFE OR THE RESURRECTION TO DEATH
- J. GOD'S WORD GUARANTEES THAT--BLESSED AND HOLY IS HE THAT HATH PART IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION ON SUCH THE SECOND DEATH HAS NO POWER REV 20:6, I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

III. OUR OBLIGATIONS

- A. GO AND TELL
- B. MY DISCIPLES
- C. JESUS HAD ALREADY APPOINTED A RALLY PLACE VS 16
- D. SOME MOUNTAIN IN GALILEE
- E. WHEN THEY SAW HIM THEY WORSHIPPED HIM.
- F. MATTHEW USES THE WORD WORSHIPPED, WORSHIPPING AND WORSHIP 15 TIMES FAR MORE THAN ANY OTHER GOSPEL WRITER.**
- G. BUT SOME DOUBTED—THERE WILL ALWAYS BE DOUBTERS, BUT WE ARE NOT TO BECOME DISCOURAGED BECAUSE SOME DOUBT**
- H. BECAUSE SOME DOUBT IS NOT TO STOP HERALDING THE GOOD NEWS.**
- I. AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST OUR FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO WORSHIP CHRIST. BRING ADORATION TO HIS NAME.**
- J. BECOME AWARE THAT ALL POWER BELONGS TO HIM
- K. HE HAS CONTROL OF ALL THINGS
- L. GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS.
- M. WE ARE NOT TO KEEP THIS TREASURE TO OURSELVES
- N. WE ARE TO TELL THE WORLD—OUR WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN THAT HE IS ALIVE**
- O. OUR MESSAGE IS TO BE PROCLAIMED BECAUSE WE BELIEVE NOT HALTED BECAUSE SOME DON'T BELIEVE

IV. CONCLUSION:

- A. TAKE THE MESSAGE WITH YOU EVERYDAY
- B. NOT JUST PROCLAIM IT ON EASTER
- C. LET EASTER BE EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR
- D. THERE IS A LOST AND DYING WORLD THAT NEEDS HEAR FROM US.**
- E. SO THEY CAN EXPERIENCE THE JOY WE HAVE EVEN THOUGH SOME DOUBT**
- F. THAT SHOULD NEVER STOP OUR MESSAGE.**