

Sermon Eight – Encountering God Through The Tomb**Matthew 28:1-7****Main Text: Matthew 28:1-7**

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

²There 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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."

**Big Idea – HE IS RISEN – More than Words, More than a Promise
It is a REALITY!**

Sermon Summary: This sermon will focus upon encountering God through the tomb. We will examine the uplifting statement that brings hope to all mankind as we reflect on these words: **HE IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN!** The present and future of our lives all hinge on how we react to this statement. As we reflect on what the angel declares, are they just words that we are familiar with and have heard throughout our lives or are these words that have become personal and changed our lives. This statement made by the angels in heaven has changed history, has changed eternity, and has changed people's lives throughout the ages because it is a fact that Jesus had Risen. If He has Risen then we can declare that He is who He claims to be the "Resurrection and the Life, the Lord and Savior!"

Four Promises Made True by the Resurrection**Promise #1 – Sorrow Turned to Peace**

- **John 14:27** – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
- **Key Point** – The first key point will focus on the first of four promises that become a reality the moment that Jesus rose from the grave. The moment that Jesus Christ rose from the grave was the very moment that these words and these promises literally jumped off of the pages of paper and became a reality that could not be overcome by Satan. The first promise is straight forward and important for us to hear. There are many in this life that are consumed by sorrow and the moment that Jesus rose from the grave was the moment that His peace became triumphant over any of the sorrow that the world holds over you!

Promise #2 – Doubt Turned into Confidence

- **John 14:1-3** – ¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God^{Ezo}; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.
- **Key Point** – The second promise that we see come about because of the resurrection of the Living Savior is that it removes all doubt from the skeptical heart. If Christ overcame

death and delivered this promise then we most certainly can trust in the rest of His promises for He is in control over all things and ultimately He will come back to deliver us for eternity.

Promise #3 – Weariness Turned into Rest

- **Matthew 11:28** – Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- **Key Point** – The third promise that we examine is that even in our most trying and tiresome times, God has not abandoned us. The truth is that He is ready to carry us when we can go no farther. He is willing to carry us and our heavy load and give us the rest we need in our lives.

Promise #4 – Death Turned into Life

- **John 11:25-26** – Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
- **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**
- **Key Point** – The final key promise that we examine is that if Christ overcame death then His promise is true for us as well. He will come back for us and those who come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will overcome death through Him alone!

Memory Verse

Matthew 28:6 – ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

Question to Consider

- What does it mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Explain.

Challenge

40 Day Challenge – The challenge through this series is to Encounter God through your relationship with Him and with others. We can only deepen our relationship with Him if we begin walking with Him. Take the 40 Day Devotional Challenge entitled “Dare to Encounter” and Encounter God by deepening your walk with Him over this next week.

