

Sermon Text: Matthew 27:62-28:10 Vainly They Sealed the Tomb

The resurrection of the Lord brings joy to His people because it is His vindication.

1) Jesus is who He said He was.

- a) v. 63 “imposter”
- b) Jesus said He is the Divine Son of Man (26:64)
 - i) Daniel 7:13-14, 25-27—embodiment of all the saints; His Kingdom is their eternal Kingdom
 - ii) Daniel 7:14—Divine Ruler of all nations
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Rejoice! the Lord is King. Because He is risen you also will rise. Because He reigns you also will reign with Him.
 - ii) There is no joy, but dread, for those who reject His Lordship.
 - iii) The crucifixion called this claim into question, even for His disciples. It was such a painful, disillusioning experience for them that they lost hope. Are there circumstances in your life that are causing you to lose sight of the Person of the risen Lord? How will you beat back despair with the joy of the resurrection?

2) Jesus accomplished what He set out to do.

- a) v. 64 “the last fraud will be worse than the first”
- b) From first to last Jesus’ enemies accused Him of being a fraud.
 - i) Teaching contrary to the law (12:2)
 - ii) Casting out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons (12:24)
 - iii) No credentials, just the carpenter’s son (13:55; 22:23)
 - iv) He is not the Son of God, but a blasphemer (26:65-66)
- c) Jesus said He would give His life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28)
- d) Jesus said He would be crucified and be raised on the third day (16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19).
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Rejoice! your life is ransomed from sin and death.
 - ii) There is no joy, but dread, for those who remain in their sin—“a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries” (Heb. 10:27).
 - iii) The resurrection of Jesus is God’s verification of the full payment for our sins. Therefore, you can have assurance of peace with God through faith in His Son.
 - iv) Satan would crush your joy by accusing you and condemning you for your sins, causing you to despair of any hope of forgiveness. Consider Judas and Peter.
 - v) Are you living in the joy of sin forgiven?

3) Jesus lives as the Lord and brother of His people.

- a) There is irony in the “securing” of the tomb.
- b) The resurrection of Jesus is announced by a mighty and majestic angel, who is but a servant of the risen Lord (28:2-3).
 - i) Roman military power melts before the messenger of the risen Lord (28:4).
 - ii) “Do not be afraid” (28:5). Joy, not terror, for Jesus’ people.
 - iii) “You seek Jesus who was crucified”—historical fact of His death
 - iv) “He has risen”—historical fact of His resurrection
 - v) “Come, see the place where He lay.”—empty tomb means bodily resurrection
- c) The women are met by the risen Lord Himself (28:9-10)
 - i) “They came up”—Jesus had greeted them from a distance. Their coming up to Him indicates that they believed they were accepted by Him.
 - ii) “and took hold of His feet”—indicates the high esteem in which they held him

- iii) “and worshiped Him”—indicates their knowledge that He is the Lord God, who alone is worthy of worship
- d) The women are commissioned messengers, sent to the disciples.
 - i) The angel commissioned them: “tell His disciples”—God regards them as disciples, despite their failure.
 - ii) The Lord commissioned them: “tell My brothers” (cf. 12:48-50).—Jesus regards believers as His brothers
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Rejoice! Jesus lives to have fellowship with you. He receives your worship and shares His life with you.
 - ii) There is no joy, but dread, for those who remain at enmity with the risen Lord.
 - iii) Jesus rose in space-time history. Therefore, the resurrection impacts human history.
 - iv) Don’t believe the reports that we live in a post-Christian world. The risen Lord is Lord over history. He cannot be left in the past. He is still present—present with His people always. And He will have His reward, the inheritance of nations. So do not fear, but like these blessed women, go with haste, full of reverence and great joy, and tell the good news. Jesus is risen! He is who He said He was. He did what He set out to do. And He lives to have fellowship with you as you live for His glory.
 - v) Are you living as though Jesus is dead or alive?

Doxology: “But of the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions.’” Hebrews 1:8-9; Psalm 45:6-7