



# HICKORY GROVE

BAPTIST CHURCH

## Resurrection Day

April 21, 2019

Matthew 28:1-10

Clint Pressley

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." <sup>8</sup> So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

*(Pastor prays)*

This is the Sunday that all other Sunday's are patterned after. Whatever joy you might feel as a believer on any given Sunday finds its roots a foundation on resurrection Sunday. Jesus Christ did many great things when he walked this earth, healed the sick, raised the vet dead, fed the poor and gave sight to the blind. He was a great teacher, a wise communicator and a forceful

preacher. Christianity doesn't reside in the good things Jesus taught or the kind things Jesus did. If this passage I just read is not true then we have no hope. In fact, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:14-17, *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.* You see, the resurrection is the seal. It is the capstone of the work Christ came to do. Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning prove that the debt has been paid. In our story there is an earthquake. Matthew Henry the great puritan expositor said of the earthquake, when Jesus died the earth that received him shook for fear. Now that he arose the earth that released him left for joy. And really that's what the resurrection is about, great unfettered joy. And my Ginuwine hope today is that those of you that are believers in Jesus will walk away from here today with a competent and eat deep joy that is yours in Christ. Because in 1000-year leap and for those of you that are not Christians, the question you must grapple with is right here in this passage. Did Jesus rise from the dead after his crucifixion? Christianity is not Christian without the cross and the resurrection. But if Jesus did rise from the dead then his authority is absolute and calls for you to trust him. It's what I want you to see.

### **The Resurrection Means You Should Love Jesus with Your Life**

#### **You Should Love Him for His Grace**

Here's grace, a free gift of his love, a forgiveness you can't earn and an affection you can't deserve. It's all wrapped up in the new covenant that Jesus brings. It's right there in verse one and it's why we go to church on Sundays and not on Saturdays. Let's look when the resurrection happened in verse 1. *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week.*

Here is a brief description of the monumental shift that resurrection brings. Back in Genesis 2, this Sabbath was instituted as a remembrance of the perfect work of creation. After 6 days of creating, rested on the 7th day period in Exodus as a part of God's people being radically different, they were told in the 4th commandment, remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Matthew tells us in chapter 27, when Jesus breathed his last on the cross and said it is finished, the veil was torn, the law had been kept, the sacrifice was made, and redemption was secured. And here after the crucifixion Jesus kept the last Sabbath people. The old covenant of the law is completely dead in a way we never could and now God the Father establishing a new covenant in Jesus the Son. That is sealed by the Holy Spirit. Thank God but like this, when Jesus has done in his life, his death on the cross, his stillness on the Sabbath and now his resurrection. What he has done is give us something religion can't earn. Think of it like this: religion and the resurrection, religion is oppressive the resurrection is freeing religion is death resurrection is life religion is works resurrection is love religion is rules resurrection is relationship religion is drudgery resurrection is freedom religion is guilt resurrection is forgiveness religion is the law resurrection is grace period God's grace test sets us free. Isn't that what Jesus said in John 8: 36, if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed. The resurrection breaks the shackles of a religion that tries to earn God's love your freedom in the free freedom. In fact it gives us the 5:00 so loss of the reformation. We are saved by God's grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to the Bible alone for the glory of God alone. You see, the resurrection declares you can love and trust Jesus. You should love him for his grace.

**You Should Love Him for His Compassion**

Anyway Matthew tells the resurrection story is remarkable period it's just 2 women, an Angel and Jesus. These 2 women in verse one, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, were the picture of faithfulness. They ministered to Jesus in Galilee and chapter 27 versus 5 through 6 tells us they were at Calvary when Jesus died chapter 27: 61 tells us they were there when Jesus was put in the garden tomb and now after the Sabbath Sabbath came to finish the gruesome work that Joseph and Nicodemus started. That's when business picks up. Let's read verse two through 4 and I will comment on it. <sup>2</sup> *And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.* <sup>3</sup> *His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.* <sup>4</sup> *And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.* The Angel of the Lord descended from heaven. That is not unusual period Angels frequently attended Jesus at his birth at the temptation after his temptation and Luke says Angels attended Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. But they were absent at the crucifixion. But now, in radiance, sitting on a stone pier, has opened the tomb, not to let Jesus out but to let the women see in. Notice what the Angel says to the women in versus 5 through 6. And I can only presume the guards in verse 4 are still laid out period look what the Angel says. Do not be afraid, I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. There are several important things to consider here. The Angel called Christ Jesus who was crucified and risen. Both are necessary the cross and the resurrection. It's not enough to seek the Jesus that left as an example but as a sage. We seek Jesus who was crucified in the place of sinners and raised in real victory because as Paul said, God has highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. There's something else to see here. It's the women who first hear of the resurrection and have the first encounter with Christ. Let's read versus 8 through 9.

<sup>8</sup>*So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.*

This fact adds to the viability and believability of the resurrection account. Because if a man were making this story up, in that day and time, he would have had a men thing. This speaks to the great equality between men and women and a gospel humility that permeates those who follow Christ. As you read on the women meet Jesus. They immediately worship him. <sup>9</sup>*And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.* Here is the most appropriate response to the crucifixion of the resurrection Jesus. The one that died for sinners and was raised in completion. He is the one that requires your worship. There is no room for pride at the nail scarred feet. There are no excuses or explanations, no bitterness, hatred or on forgiveness, only worship. These scars are a sacrament that speak of our Salvation. I think it's worth missioning one more thing about this passage. Notice what Jesus says to the women in burst in. Go and tell my brothers. All those men that had deserted him at the cross, including Peter that denied him, Jesus is now willing to call brother. This has specific meaning and application for every center. Now I've pointed those things out today as a comfort and encouragement for those of you who are Christians. But for those of you that are not, my intention has been to show you that you should love Jesus for his grace period says our sins are paid for, the resurrection says we are accepted in Christ. The resurrection tells us that we should love Jesus for his compassion. The Bible says that God the father knows we are but dust an yet his kindness and compassion he has pursued you in order to forgive and love and accept you in Christ. Allow me to explain the gospel using 4 categories: guide, man, Christ and response.

*(Pastor prays)*