



*But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. **He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.** Come, see the place where the Lord lay. **And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.**" ⁸So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. **And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!"** So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. Matt. 28:5-9*

I. The Morning that Changed Everything

They had followed those who carried Him to the tomb, and when they heard the echoing sound of the massive rock that sealed the tomb, they knew that their hope was dead – sealed in the tomb with the One that they believed was their Savior.

They knew what it was like to be hopeless, until the first Easter morning came!

This morning, my desire for us is that we will experience that same restoration of hope and faith that those first century Christians experienced when they came to the tomb and heard the words, **"He is not here; He is risen just as He said!"**

Jesus solves all the questions of life by His resurrection. His resurrection is the **perfect answer** for our imperfect lives.

II. The Resurrection is Personal

Mary Magdalene had buried more than a friend; she had buried the only person who ever helped her. She was mourning at His tomb when He first appeared to her in His resurrection body in John 20. She didn't recognize Him at first, **but then Jesus said her name.**

We know God cares for us because He knows us **by name.**

Core Point: Something incredibly wonderful happened when Jesus was risen from the dead. The reality of the fact that Jesus lives, provides the victorious answer to every need of mankind!

*To Him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear His voice; **and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.** John 10:3*

God is **very interested in our lives**, because He hears us we should know He understands. **Since He knows our name we should know He knows us.**

Sheep recognize the voice of their shepherd, especially when your name is spoken. Jesus knows your name, and He calls out to you today and **He invites you to accept Him for who He is—the resurrected Lord!**

III. How Should We Respond to His Resurrection?

*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.**" And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:27-29*

***If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.** We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God. And we declare with our mouths that we believe, and so we are saved. Rom. 10:9-10 NCV*

IV. The Results of His Resurrection Life in You

*But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, **He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead.** (It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!) **For He raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with Him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus.** Ephesians 2:4-6 (NLT)*

You will experience **faith** that relieves any doubts.
You will experience **grace** that forgives any failures.
You will experience **courage** that will conquer any fear.
You will experience **life** that overcomes death.
You will experience a **joy** that only comes from knowing Jesus.

For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory. Colossians 1:27

Core Statement: I believe in Jesus! I believe He is risen from the dead forevermore! I will let His resurrection life be my source of hope and strength, as I live my life for Him!