

Welcome to
University Chapel

Easter, 2020

Our Resurrection Hope in Times of Trial

Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-10

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

Not a Normal Easter

- “This is the Lentiest Lent I ever Lented”
- “we’ve had to give up so much this Lent”
- Lost Jobs, Family in Hospital, Overwhelmed
- “For Christians who anticipate a Holy Week unlike any that they have witnessed in hundreds of years, [questions surrounding death] are far from abstract. Either there is *real* hope or there is only a metaphor that proves tragically impotent in the face of the all-consuming, definitive power of death.”
- David Taylor

The Resurrection Narrative in Matthew

- Jesus Burial by Joseph of Arimathea (27:57-61)
- *The Guard Sealing the Tomb at the Pharisees request (27:62-66)*
- **The Empty Tomb and encounter with Jesus (28:1-10)**
- *The corruption of the Guards (28:11-15)*
- The Great Commission (28:16-20)

The Burial

- Not long after the Cross
- Joseph asks for Jesus Body
- Places it in his tomb and leaves
- Primary point – Jesus **is** dead
- *Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days? (Luke 24:18, MSG)*
- It has gone Viral

The Burial

- Quality of burial – Criminal's death
 - Burial of a wealthy person
- Joseph show his devotion in this way
- Application for us:
 - Some will experience significant financial distress
 - those of us who are provided for need to keep an eye out and be prepared to help those of us in need

The Guard at the tomb & The Corruption of the Guards

- Matthew 27:62-66 & 28:11-15
- Chief Priests and Pharisees – Subvert the movement
- Feared the disciples faking the resurrection
- But the tomb **was** empty
- Buy off the guards, buy off Pilate
- The Story was widely circulated

The Guard at the tomb & The Corruption of the Guards

- Even in the mist of the actual happening resurrection the Priests are trying to deny and suppress it
- As long as we proclaim, some will deny
- But we have an empty tomb

The Empty Tomb

- Mary and the other Mary go to the Tomb
- Violent earthquake
- Creation was still responding
- The Guards faint
- *“The irony is not to be missed: the ones assigned to guard the **dead**...
... themselves appear **dead** while the **dead** one has been made alive.”*
- Donald Hagner
- The women didn't faint

The Empty Tomb

- The stone was rolled way
 - So that the women *could look in*
- Rolled away for us

The Empty Tomb

- He is not here
- He has risen
- Just as he said
- Come in and see the place where he lay
- “Go to Galilee”

The Empty Tomb

- Suddenly, Jesus
- They bow down, and worship at his feet
- **Christ was resurrected**
- Will you bow down?
- Will you hear: “Do not be afraid?”
- “This is where we make our stand” (1 Cor: 15:1)

The Empty Tomb

- His Resurrection – power over heaven and earth
- His Resurrection – our hope
- His Resurrection – our resurrection
 - we, in Christ, are also resurrected
 - we, in Christ, are also being resurrected
 - we, in Christ, will be resurrected in the final day.
- This is what we believe

The Great Comission

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Jesus, very much alive (contrast to burial at the tomb)
- All authority is his, go and make disciples
- Application: Go
 - The resurrection is the foundation of all disciple making (NT Wright)
 - ...the foundation of all Christian Go-ing

The Great Comission: Go

- You have something to offer, even in this strange time
- You offer the hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ