

THE RESURRECTION

(THE EASTER MESSAGE!)

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THE RESURRECTION: THE EASTER MESSAGE

THE MESSAGE OF EASTER (Matthew 28:5-7)

Each holiday has a message.

The message of Memorial Day is the death of patriotic men and women who died from their country.

The message of Mother's Day is "mom".

The message of Father's Day is "dad".

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The message of Christmas is the birth of Christ.

We aptly say "Jesus is the reason for the season."

The message of Good Friday is the death of Christ for our sins.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

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And what about this holiday?

To celebrate this holiday the secular world has given us the Easter Bunny, Easter candy, Easter rabbits, Easter dinner and Easter bonnets.

Are these the message of Easter?

The answer of course is "no"!

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What is the message of Easter?

The answer to that question is found in our text. "

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then 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." (Matthew 28:5-7)

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There are four words in this text which I feel sum up the message of Easter.

The four words are imperatives.

They are commands.

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COME!

By way of background, Jesus was dead!

He had been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by His disciples, denied by Peter, tried by the Sanhedran, condemned to die Pontius Pilate, crucified at Calvary, buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimithea.

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On Easter morning women came to the tomb, concerned that they would be able to get in. (Mark 16:3).

But when they arrived they were in for the surprise of their lives! A great earthquake had taken place. (Matthew 28:2)

The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and rolled back the stone. (Matthew 28:2-4)

When the women arrived they were told not to fear. The angel knew they were seeking Jesus. (Matthew 28:5)

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The angels told the women to **"COME"**.

This was an invitation often given in the Scriptures.

Ever since the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned against a righteous and holy God, God has had His arms open, saying **"Come"**.

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He gave the promise of the Messiah who would have victory over Satan. (Genesis 3:15)

He used the ark build by Noah as a picture of coming to Him for the protection of salvation.

He invited the children of Israel to come out of Egypt and later He invited them to come into the promised land.

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He gives great invitations to come.

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. (Isaiah 55:1-3)

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The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. (Revelation 22:17).

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Jesus made that same great invitation in Matthew 11:28-30. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

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Have you labored under a load of guilt?

Have you been burdened with the awfulness of your sin?

Have you labored to get into Heaven, and are still not sure you're going to make it?

Have you been "heavy laden" with the load of trying to keep the Ten Commandments, or the precepts of a particular church?

JESUS SAYS **"COME! COME TO ME!"**

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We come to Him who has left the tomb!

We come to Him that is risen from the dead!

We come to Him who is living right now in Heaven!

We come to Him who is offering forgiveness and salvation to all who believe!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

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We come to Him who offers peace and power to all who have believed on Him!

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. (John 14:27)

(see John 15:1-7)

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SEE!

I'd like to differentiate between the words "look" and "see".

When I look at something, I may not grasp what I'm looking at.

I may not comprehend or understand.

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SEE!

But when I truly "see" something I grasp, comprehend, or understand it.

I believe that's what the angel wanted the women to "see" or grasp, understand, and comprehend that the tomb was empty and that Christ had risen from the dead.

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I believe God wants us to "see" that Christ is risen from the dead and is alive forever.

In seeing that God wants us to place our faith and trust in Him as our Savior.

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

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GO!

The women were told to go.

Jesus did not intend for anyone to stare continually into the empty tomb.

After we come to a point of seeing the empty tomb and trusting Christ as Savior, we are to go.

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We are to go to learn more about Him.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)

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We are to go to Him in prayer.

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14:13-14)

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We are to go with Jesus Christ, allowing Him to live through us.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

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We are to church and fellowship with other believers.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

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We are to go to a lost and dying world.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

(Acts 1:8)

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TELL!

The women were supposed to tell the disciples of the resurrection.

As someone has said, Christianity is one beggar telling another where to find bread.

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There was once a demon-possessed man who was healed. He wanted to travel with Jesus.

Instead he was told to go home and tell the great things the Lord had done for him.

Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (Mark 5:19)

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It is our job to tell others what great things the Lord has done for us.

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15)

THE RESURRECTION: THE EASTER MESSAGE

The message of Easter is

**"COME AND SEE.
GO AND TELL!"**

LET'S PRAY: