

BELIEVE

EASTER AT EASTVIEW

SERMON
STUDY

03.31.2024

Leader Corner

Empty Tomb

John 20:1-18

From Max Lucado, "Each of the Gospel accounts makes one thing very clear: Jesus' followers were not expecting anything to happen on that Resurrection morning. It started out as just another day of grief and confusion. The conclusion of the Sabbath made it possible for some of the women to plan a visit to the tomb, in hopes of doing a better job of wrapping and anointing the body. We don't know how Mary and her companions planned to open the tomb, but they certainly didn't anticipate what they found." Jesus had already shown that the Son of God, the Christ, held power of death (see Lazarus and Jairus' daughter). But now Jesus displayed that the Son of Man held power over sin and death and was just who He said He was- the Resurrection and the Life.

Main Idea: Jesus is alive!

Main Practice: Knowing why we believe in the resurrection and how we can share the good news.

Main Teaching: John 20:1-18

Refocus with Praise

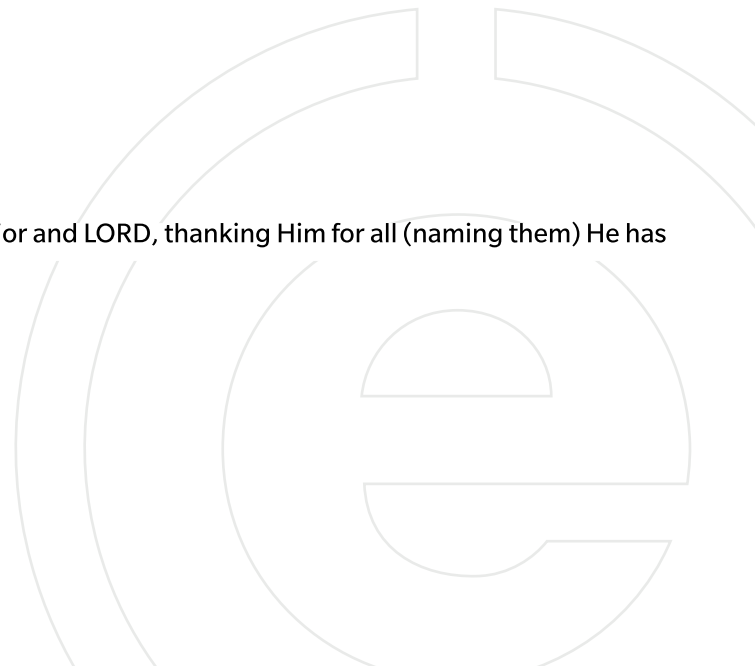
Pull up Kari Jobe's "Forever" and focus on the following words:

*Forever he is glorified
Forever he is lifted high
Forever he is risen
He is alive, He is alive!*

*The ground began to shake
The stone was rolled away
His perfect love could not be overcome
Now death where is your sting?
Our resurrected King
Has rendered you defeated*

with Prayer

Then open with your own expressions of praise of the Resurrected Savior and LORD, thanking Him for all (naming them) He has defeated.



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Principle

1. Have someone read John 20:1-18 in the NIV, ESV or NLT versions.
2. John identified three witnesses to the empty tomb (Mary Magdalene, Peter and the other disciple, John himself). What important details do we learn from each of them?
3. Mary didn't immediately recognize Jesus. Why do you think that is? What is significant about what triggered her recognition? (See John 18:37 and John 10:27)
4. What impresses you the most about the risen Jesus' encounter with Mary?
5. How did Jesus explain the tripartite relationship between the Father, the Son, and us? What does that mean for us practically?
6. Why is it important to prove the tomb is empty? (See also Romans 6:5 and I Peter 1:3-5)
7. How would Christianity look without the resurrection?

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Practice

Discuss what you believe to be obstacles to people believing that Jesus rose from the dead. Practice identifying what you have found to be the evidence of Jesus' resurrection. Practice explaining what the resurrection of Jesus means to you.

For Further Focus

Read Matthew 28:1-15, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, and Acts 2:29-36 and add to the details and observations that provide evidence of the resurrection, Jesus' promise/prophecy fulfilled.