

NO MATTER WHAT WAS SAID, HE IS STILL RISEN
Sermon Title for Sunrise Service April 12, 2020

This morning as we gather together for this special service in the life of the church, we give God thanks and praise for what he has done for us through his son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We celebrate this day the most important day in the life of a child of God, and that is the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Yes, with acclamation, with adoration, without hesitation and with thanksgiving we can say this morning that he is risen, he is risen indeed. As we think about the last few weeks, we have all been caught up in trying to stay safe in dealing with this Corona Virus, and yet, as the Lent season has unfolded, Jesus had been making his way towards Jerusalem. Now he has taken the city by storm and the people were excited and the religious leaders were fighting back.

As we look back over the last couple of days, we see Jesus being arrested, falsely accused, lied on, beaten and called everything but the Son of the living God. But in the midst of all that has happened and all that took place, in the midst of all of that we have heard about God's purpose of sending Jesus in the first place. He came to live out his calling so that you and I might receive salvation. He came that you and I might have a right to the tree of life. He came

to die that we might live, so my brothers and sisters, we should be glad about that this morning.

Right before their very eyes, the savior of humanity was nailed to a cross, and he proceeded to die for the sins of the whole world, and fulfilling prophecy about the last days of his life. He had told the disciples that he would be arrested, and he would be killed, but on the third day he would rise again. He was about to fulfill this prophecy.

So much he had done for us. He was a miracle worker. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, deaf ears to be opened, fed thousands with a two-piece fish dinner and he had even raised Lazarus and others from the dead. Nobody talked like he talked, nobody cared like he cared, and nobody lived like he lived, and nobody loved like he loved us. He was Jesus, whose life was filled with love and compassion, who displayed the power given to him by his father, fulfilling a threefold ministry in the role of prophet, priest, and now king. Now his life seemed destined for a tragic end.

So many things predicted by him had come to fulfillment. Isaiah 53 said he grew up as a tender plant, as a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness. He did not look the role, and Isaiah said that when we see him there was no beauty that we should desire him. You must understand that when Jesus was beaten

before going to the cross, he was flogged, which meant he took the 39 stripes, he was beaten so badly that he was almost unrecognizable. On this past Friday night, Susan and I watched the movie, *The Passion of Christ*, Mel Gibson made Jesus look like he had been put through a meat grinder. But each strike that he took, he took for our sickness and our diseases, he bore the sins of all of us for the bible say, by his stripes we are healed. The Pharisees and the Saducees despised him and he was rejected of men, he was a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief. And we hid as if it were our faces from him.

On that cross his disciples deserted him and they esteemed him not in fear for their own lives, and they went into hiding. Surely Isaiah said, he has born our grief's and carried our sorrow. He was stricken for our sorrow and for our sin and was afflicted with pain that should have been yours and mine. He was wounded for our transgression, beaten and bruised for our iniquity. He took all the hell so that we could have the peace. Even when we turned away his love remained steadfast. God laid all of our sins, yes all of our iniquity, all our sorrows on Jesus. He was oppressed, yes; they beat him and they spit on him, the put a crown of thorns on his head, with blood running down his face. He was kicked and blindfolded, and they mocked him by saying who hit you, and yet he opened not his mouth. He took all that for you and me. Church, he didn't

have to do it but he did, because he loved us so much. He died on that old rugged cross for the sins of the whole world, but he got up with all power in his hand. And with that being said, today, this morning as Easter people with highest praise we can celebrate and say Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed.

What a powerful story this is for those of us who love him because through resurrection and salvation we have become the righteousness of God. You see when he got up, he took the keys of death and hell from the grave and now he sits at the right hand of God in glory with all power in his hand. He is now our intercessor, our mediator, and our Lord and savior. He is risen; he is risen indeed.

In the Gospel of Mark, early on Sunday morning, Mary the mother of James, and Mary Magdalene, and Salome came to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body. I don't know about you, but you have to admire the courage of these women, who got up early in the morning, went to the tomb where Jesus laid, having no plan as to how they were going to get into a sealed tomb. They even asked the question to each other as they were on their way, but I believe that in faith and trust in God, they believed that the Lord would make a way somehow. And to their amazement, they found the big stone already rolled away and when they looked inside, they saw an angel sitting in the place where Jesus laid. For he said fear not,

for I know that you seek Jesus, which is crucified. He is not here, for he is risen, glory be to God. Then he said, come see the place where they laid him.

Right here, church, in the gospel of Mark, we get this mystery. The gospel of Mark is known to have this secretive motif, and the story of Jesus's death helps to magnify that. You see, in the original manuscripts of the bible, the Gospel of Mark stops at verse 8 where the women leave out of the tomb and they were trembling, and afraid and did not want to talk.

What if the story had ended right there, what if the women were hard headed and did not listen to the angel and instead of spreading the message to the disciples, just ran away in fear and just went back home.

Thank God for obedience. Thank God for those who listened. Thank God for the women continuing to spread the news that Jesus Christ had indeed risen from the dead. Mark had a secretive motif about it, but the secret was out, Jesus Christ was no longer dead, he was alive and he had risen from the grave, and he was going on ahead of them to meet them in Galilee and then give them instructions as to what he needed them to do. So, I don't know about you today, but I am glad the women were obedient and they ran to tell the disciples, and the disciples ran to the tomb, and

because they were obedient, today is a special day to worship and praise the Lord.

But getting back to Mark, the bible say that the angel told the women to go quickly and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus had risen from the dead and behold he goes into Galilee and he would meet them there. Go, he said and do as I have told you.

One of the most amazing things in the bible happened in that tomb. You see the angel told the women that Jesus said to go tell the disciples and Peter. You remember, Peter, the hard headed one, the one who said he would die before he denied Jesus, the one who went away in disgust when he found out he had denied him three times before the cock crowed. Yes, that Peter, yes, Peter the man. Peter who was probable the most perplexed of all the disciples at this time. Yes, he had this spirit of boldness, he didn't mind saying what was on his mind, and as with many of us, sometime a free-spirited tongue can cause you unnecessary trouble. Peter's attitude is harder to explain. He was hurt, knowing that his brashness and his boldness and his reputations as a trusted disciple had taken a big hit when he told Jesus that I would die before I deny you. Peter found out that he was not as bold as he thought he was and he was dealing with one in Jesus that knew him better than he knew himself. Even though Peter was down, he was not out, so his attitude did not stop him from going into that empty tomb. He saw

plenty of evidence. No body, the grave clothes in an undisturbed position, the face cloth still there, yet it does not change the fact that he still did not understand what had happened so how could he believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. In one of the other Gospels it talked about how the linen cloth laid in that tomb. You know that there is an old Jewish custom that said when someone got up from a bed that they were sleeping in you could tell by the way that they laid their linen whether they were coming back or not. When Peter and John went into the tomb where Jesus was laid, it was something about that linen that let them know Jesus had risen. In fact, the bible says that all John did was look in and he believed. You see if you know how they buried Jews you would know that the body was wrapped in this linen. To remove a body, all the linen had to be unwrapped. But what they found was the linen in place, but no body in it, and the headpiece placed by itself, where Jesus head was suppose to be. So, the disciples knew he wasn't coming back.

Jesus knew that was still something for Peter to do and he wanted to make sure that he remained committed to the work of a disciple. I know sometimes we let one another down, but thank God for his grace and his mercy. The same grace and mercy he showed towards Peter, is the same that he shows to us everyday. Amen somebody.

So, as we survey this story this morning, I don't know about you, but I am glad this morning, he didn't stay there, he got up, all power in his hand. All power had been given to him, in both heaven and on earth. And he was telling the women and his disciples and especially Peter, to go tell somebody. Yes, that is our responsibility today, especially today, this Easter morning, to go tell somebody that he is risen, he is risen indeed. Praise the Lord Hallelujah. Church the secret is out. You see there is no secret that Jesus is alive and well. Yes, they took him, and they beat him and they pierced him in his side, they hung him on an old rugged cross, and he died, with all power in his hand. Yes, they thought they had him, and I know the devil threw a party, but the party did not last long. For when Jesus got up from the grave, he crashed that party and took the keys of death and the grave from the devil and now he has all power in his hand.

The Pharisees and the chief priests tried to play cover up to the greatest blessing that God have ever given to man with a lie. Jesus as resurrected from that borrowed tomb; they called it a lie. Our assurance and with our salvation; our hope for a better tomorrow with a lie. Are we any different, this is a perfect example of how we try to cover up our sins against one another with a lie? They tried to keep it a secret.

But you must understand Jesus was doing some covering of his own. He covered up our sins with his blood. He covered our sickness and diseases, for by his stripes we are healed. He covered us with his love for he says for God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. He has covered us in glory for he now sits at the right hand of God interceding for us and going to bat for us and still pulling for us. He is still covering for us until the time comes when he will come back on a cloud and take his children home to be with him forever in glory.

Yes church, when it was all said, know that the secret is out, and yes, he is still risen, he is risen indeed.

Now, run and tell that. Now you run and tell everything else, now run and tell somebody that the secret is out, **NO MATTER WHAT WAS SAID**, Jesus Christ is risen, and that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God our father, Amen.