



COME TO THE TOMB, MATTHEW 28:1-8



## Come To The Tomb

- We are living in a time that has been characterized by the term “safety obsession imbalance”
  - Leftover from the time of COVID-19
    - “If you don’t do what we say, you and everyone in your family are going to die”
- We today are using the same vigilance on everything
  - Climate change, Migrants, Fentanyl, Corruption, Inflation, Violence, The next death claiming virus
  - Fear and Anxiety runs about 25+% higher today than before the COVID-19 lockdown



## Come To The Tomb

- This is exactly where the disciples of Jesus found themselves after His crucifixion
  - All their hopes, faith, security, dreams were crucified with Jesus on the cross
  - Now instead of arguing who would sit next to Jesus when He ruled there is
    - Fear of arrest
    - Complete and total loss of even a flicker of hope
    - Feelings of being taken advantaged of, Financial loss, Doubting their own religion
    - No idea how to go on



## **Come To The Tomb**

- What do you do when all of you is lying dead in a tomb not too far away?
  - Go to the tomb to remember and see if you can recover something of yourself
- Song – Jeremiah Doke



## Scripture

- **Matthew 28:1-8 NIV**, 1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
  - 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.



## Scripture

- **Matthew 28:1-8 NIV**, 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 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.”
  - 8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.



## Come To The Tomb

- These women did not come to the tomb in faith that their circumstances had changed
  - They came to grieve, remember, try and figure out how it came to this, maybe recover some of their faith and hope
  - Some came to redo the burial spices right after the men probably didn't do it correctly
  - God graciously rolls the stone away from the tomb entrance and provided an usher



## Come To The Tomb

- This angel is providing for these women what the Holy Spirit provides today
  - Clarity of current situations
  - Bringing God's Word into our current situations
  - Providing hope
- The angel gave them three nudges forward



## The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus

- **Vs. 5-6a**, 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
- Notice –
  - The recognition of the condition of the women – “Do not be afraid”, not just from the angel but life events
    - God does not want us living in fear being anxious
    - He doesn’t want you living in hopelessness
  - His desire for you is to be free through faith in Jesus Christ
    - **John 8:36 NIV**, So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



## The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus

- **Vs. 5-6a**, 5 The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
- Notice –
  - There is empathy with them – “I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified” – God really does know and care
    - I’ve identified this in your life and have been sent to rescue you
    - The angel could have said, “Hey, I would have been right there with you just a couple days ago”
      - ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:12 NIV**, “Even angels long to look into these things”



## **The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus**

- Then the angel instills within them the flicker of hope - “He is not here, He is risen”
  - The women’s hope does not arise in them because of the angel - the angel brought fear and uncertainty
  - It wasn’t even the empty tomb – they thought someone had stolen the body or moved it somewhere else



## The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus

- Then the angel instills within them the flicker of hope - “He is not here, He is risen”
  - But it was the precious words of Jesus – “Just as He said”
  - **Mark 9:30-31 NIV**, 30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, 31 because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.” 32 But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.



## **The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus**

- The disciples failed to remember the words of Jesus and apply them to their current circumstances
  - They were quick to remember when Christ talked about ruling and reigning in His Kingdom
  - Quick to remember the things they liked – Grace, Mercy, Forgiveness...
  - The harder things they didn't tuck away in their minds and hearts for when the circumstances demand them
  - When God's Word is absent in any part of our lives, a void is created that will be filled with the things of this world



## The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus

- The disciples failed to remember the words of Jesus and apply them to their current circumstances
  - **Vs. 6b**, “Come and see the place where he lay.” – What had Jesus said to them?
    - Jesus said He would die – they now know this was true
      - ❖ It was just as true when He spoke them as they were now
    - Jesus said He would rise again – that is also proven true
    - Now go and let His words live in your life



## **The angel first nudges them to the words and promises of Jesus**

- Now go and let His words live in your life
  - Did they have all the answers to every one of their questions?
  - Did their eyes have faith?
  - But the angel, empty tomb and Jesus' words produced faith within their current circumstances
- I encourage you to come often to the empty tomb of Christ and know He is not there, just as He said



## The angel then instills confidence into their current circumstances

- **Vs. 7**, “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. Now I have told you.”
  - “I told you I would rise again and that has proven true. Now trust I am going ahead of you, and you will see me because I have told you so.”
  - Trust the empty tomb
  - Don’t linger and marvel at the tomb – Jesus is not there nor coming back there



## The angel then instills confidence into their current circumstances

- He is going ahead of you – What does this mean”
  - **Psalm 23:1-3 ESV**, 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
    - He leads me in the right path
    - The Shepherd also leads His flock from the front, never the rear
    - He doesn't drive His sheep, he leads them



## The angel then instills confidence into their current circumstances

- He is going ahead of you – What does this mean”
  - **John 16:13 NIV**, But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide “*lead*” you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.
  - **Isaiah 43:19 NIV**, See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
  - Look up and ahead not down and behind



## The angel then instills confidence into their current circumstances

- You will see Him – What does this mean?
  - You will see Him when the Word of God becomes real in your life, not just something you read but something you live daily
  - When you see Him leading you in and through the events of life
  - When you recognize afterward that God was there all the time
  - We will see Him one day as He really is with eyes of faith replaced with eyes of sight
- **1st John 3:2 NIV**, Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.



## The angel then instills confidence into their current circumstances

- Come to the tomb, leave you past there and reach forward to what God has planned for you
  - **Philippians 3:12-14 NIV**, Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



## Lastly the angel encourages them go and tell

- **Vs. 7a**, “go quickly and tell”
- Who do you go and tell the encouragement and promises of the empty tomb?
  - Yourself
    - Keep learning and reminding yourself who you are being in Christ Jesus
    - Keep learning and reminding yourself of all the promises of God and our eternal home awaiting us
    - Keep learning Jesus
      - ❖ **John 13:15 NIV**, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”



## Lastly the angel encourages them go and tell

- Vs. 7a, “go quickly and tell”
- Who do you go and tell the encouragement and promises of the empty tomb?
  - Yourself
    - Keep learning Jesus
      - ❖ **Matthew 11:29-30 NIV**, 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from *(or of)* me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



## Lastly the angel encourages them go and tell

- **Vs. 7a**, “go quickly and tell”
- Who do you go and tell the encouragement and promises of the empty tomb”
  - Your brothers and sisters in Christ exactly what you are telling yourself
  - To those who are lost in sin without hope
    - They are trying to fill the absence of God’s Word in their lives with anything they think might give a brief calm
    - But not in judgement, ridicule, shame, spiritual pride
      - ❖ **Ephesians 4:15 NIV**, “speaking the truth in love”
    - It’s only by the grace of God that we are not walking the same path, with the same hopelessness, without any eternal security



## **Come To The Tomb**

- Let God roll away your stone from the tombs of your life this morning
  - Accept Jesus as your Savior
  - Stop trying to be the master of your life in which you are ill equipped for
- It is freedom Christ is leading to this morning
  - Freedom of new life in Jesus
  - Oh, the joy that comes into a life when death has lost its gripe





COME TO THE TOMB, MATTHEW 28:1-8