



**Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
Sermon Study Guide
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The Power of a Name: *REDEEMER* - Matthew 28:1-8

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Matthew 28:1-8

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word

1. In this corner of the world called Northern Virginia we are waiting for *Spring* to arrive. While much of the scenery is still brown and lifeless, little buds are emerging on the trees and colorful *flower faces* with names like *Tulip* and *Daffodil* are popping up from the cold winter ground. Lambs are born in early Spring and today we are reminded of the Lamb that hung on a cross long ago, His name is Jesus, but His name is also *Redeemer*.
 - How do you define *redemption*?

2. For hundreds of years the Jewish people had been waiting in anticipation of a *King* that would bring them freedom from Roman oppression. But for many on that day on a hillside called Golgotha, their hopes were crushed as they watched the scene unfold as their *King* was nailed to a cross like a common criminal. There were women there in the crowd watching. Women who knew and loved Jesus, even his mother stayed until the very end. They watched, shaken, and horrified at the violence surrounding the death of their friend and Son. They stayed with his body after it was placed in a tomb until they were required to leave because the Sabbath was approaching.
 - What images, thoughts, fears do you imagine were gripping their hearts as they left the tomb?

3. As the Sabbath ended and before sunrise, the women began the journey back to the tomb to mourn and to remember and to say a final good-bye. As they walked, they were silently grieving and still processing the events that had unfolded over the past few days. What they had witnessed they did not want to remember but how could they forget? As they walked, they began to wonder (perhaps silently or out loud), “*how would they move the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?*”
 - The women were focused on the physical challenge of moving a heavy stone but were missing the more pressing need that they each had, their need for a Redeemer, Savior. What about your past or present circumstances appears to you to be simply unredeemable?

- What “stone” seems unmovable?
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4. As they drew closer to the place where Jesus' body had been laid, cold, lifeless and battered almost beyond recognition, they felt the earth shake and saw a magnificent Angel the color of a lightning bolt and He spoke to them. *He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.*
 - The women felt robbed in that moment as they processed the unexpected. Jesus's body was missing. But in reality, that missing body signaled their redemption. What in your life can only be redeemed (changed, replaced, destroyed, removed) by Jesus?
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- Read the Romans passage below. How will you allow Jesus to set you free and redeem every part of your life?

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Romans 3:23-26 (NLT)

5. In this corner of the world there are women and men who wonder about their value. Their value as mothers, fathers, spouses, friends, neighbors, CEO's..... They wonder if there is hope for them. On that day long ago those who had loved Jesus, watched Him hang on a cross. At the tomb an Angel spoke to the women who had returned. And the men who stood guard watched speechless and terrified. *There is nothing to fear* said the Angel, *I know you are looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to a cross. Come and see, He is not here but you will meet up with Him in Galilee, now go and tell His Followers.* Matthew 28:1-10 Joy gripped their hearts! They were the first to know! They were women living in an ancient, male dominated culture and yet a messenger from God had spoken to them. God trusted them to take His message back to His people. The message is this, ***God see us, He hears us, He speaks to us and His Son Jesus is alive!*** We do not have to go to Galilee to find Him. He is here with us.
- Matthew 7:8 tells us that if we seek Him, we will find Him. How are you seeking Jesus your Redeemer today?

- How does your everyday life reflect the story of an Empty Tomb and a risen Savior?

MAKING IT REAL

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

As we celebrate Easter today, know this, God loves you so much that He was willing to watch as His son Jesus died on a cross. Today we celebrate the truth that He is risen.