

“THE EASTER MORNING THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING”

MATTHEW 28:6-7 & ST. JOHN 20:15

INTRODUCTION

THERE ARE CERTAIN DAYS IN THE TIME LINE OF HISTORY THAT HAVE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANT.

THESE ARE DAYS THAT CHANGE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE, EITHER FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD.

THE FIRST TIME MAN WALKED ON THE MOON, THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, THE SEPTEMBER 11TH TERRORIST ATTACK ON AMERICA ALL QUALIFY AS LIFE CHANGING DAYS.

BUT THERE WAS ONE DAY THAT CHANGED LIFE MORE ON EARTH THAN ANY OTHER DAY BEFORE AND SINCE; IT WAS THE FIRST EASTER, THE MORNING OF CHRIST’S RESURRECTION.

THE QUESTION OF OUR TEXT, “WOMAN, WHY WEEPEST THOU?” WAS A PERSONAL ONE FOR CHRIST TO MARY; BUT IT WAS ALSO A THEORETICAL ONE THAT GOES FAR DEEPER THAN THE SURFACE.

CERTAINLY THERE HAVE BEEN OCEANS OF TEARS SHED SINCE THE FIRST EASTER MORNING, BUT SINCE THE RESURRECTION, OUR TEARS HAVE AN END AND A FULFILLMENT.

BECAUSE OF THAT MORNING, ALL TEARS WILL ONE DAY BE WIPED AWAY FOR THE LAST TIME.

REVELATION 21:4 “AND GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES; AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH, NEITHER SORROW, NOR CRYING, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN: FOR THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY.”

HOW DID THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST CHANGE HUMAN LIFE? LET US EXAMINE THAT QUESTION IN THE MESSAGE THIS MORNING.

(I). IT WAS A MORNING OF A NEW KIND OF PLAN.

(MATTHEW

28:6) “HE IS NOT HERE.”

(A).PAIN AND SUFFERING HAVE BEEN CONSTANT SINCE THE FALL OF MAN IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

(1).THERE IS A DIVINE CURSE UPON HUMANKIND BECAUSE OF SIN, AND THE OLD TESTAMENT TESTIFY OF THE AMOUNT AND THE INTENSITY OF SUFFERING THROUGHOUT THOSE EARLY AGES.

(2).BUT FOR THE DISCIPLES, THE DEATH OF CHRIST MUST HAVE BEEN A MOST CRUEL PAIN.

(B).HE HAD BEEN THEIR LEADER, AND NEVER HAD A LEADER SPOKEN LIKE THIS MAN.

(1).NEVER HAD LIFE’S MYSTERIES BEEN REVEALED AND EXPLAINED LIKE JESUS HAD DONE.

(2).HE DID NOT SPEAK WITH “PERHAPS” AND “MAYBE” IN HIS VOICE.

(3).HE SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY AND CERTAINTY, AS ONE WHO KNEW THE ANSWERS.

(4).THEY LOVED JESUS, AND HAD INVESTED EVERY PART OF THEMSELVES IN HIM.

(5).NEVER HAD THEY BEEN SO SURE OF HIS

AUTHENTICITY AND LINEAGE.

(6).THIS WAS GOD IN THE FLESH, THE MAKER AND SUSTAINER OF ALL LIFE.

(7).HOW COULD HE DIE? HOW COULD HE BE GONE? WHAT PAIN THEY MUST HAVE FELT.

(C).HE HAD BEEN THEIR FRIEND.

(1).YES, HE WAS THEIR LEADER, BUT THIS GREAT GOD-MAN TOOK A PERSONAL INTEREST IN EACH ONE OF THEM.

(2).HE CARED FOR THEM IN A SPECIAL WAY.

(3).THINK OF THE HOURS SPENT IN DISCUSSION AND REPOSE WITH THE SAVIOR.

(4).HE ALLOWED THEM A SPECIAL ACCESS TO HIM, THE ACCESS OF A FRIEND.

ST. JOHN 15:13-15 “GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS. YE ARE MY FRIENDS, IF YE DO WHATSOEVER I COMMAND YOU. HENCEFORTH I CALL YOU NOT SERVANTS; FOR THE SERVANT KNOWETH NOT WHAT HIS LORD DOETH: BUT I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS; FOR ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE HEARD OF MY FATHER I HAVE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU.”

(D). AS MUCH AS WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THE LOSS OF THE DISCIPLES, MANY HAD LOST LOVED ONES, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS BEFORE AND SINCE THIS EVENTS.

(1).SOME OF US HAVE BEEN AFFECTED GREATLY BY THE HAND OF DEATH TOUCHING SOMEONE CLOSE TO US.

(2).WHAT MAKES THE FIRST EASTER SO SIGNIFICANT WAS THAT CHRIST'S DEATH WAS THE FIRST DEATH WHICH RESULTED IN LIFE AND HOPE.

(3).THIS DEATH WAS A DEATH FOLLOWED BY A RESURRECTION.

(4).IT WAS A ONE OF A KIND EVENT, AND IT WAS A PROTOTYPE FOR ALL SUBSEQUENT DEATHS.

(II). IT WAS A MORNING OF A NEW KIND OF POWER.
(MATTHEW 28:6) "**FOR HE IS RISEN.**"

(A).THE JEWS HAD SEEN WITH THEIR OWN EYES WHEN JESUS RAISED LAZARUS AND OTHERS FROM THE DEAD.

(1).HE POSSESSED A POWER THAT HAD NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS.

(2).BUT JESUS WAS FAR GREATER THAN ANY OF THE PROPHETS, FOR NON OF THEM HAD THE POWER TO RAISE THEMSELVES FROM THE DEAD.

(B). IT WAS A POWER OVER THE DEVIL.

(1).MANY TODAY DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF A LITERAL SATAN.

(2).THEY ONLY BELIEVE IN A SPIRIT OF EVIL THAT IS NOT SUPERNATURAL AT ALL.

(3).BUT A REAL AND PERSONAL DEVIL HAS DONE ALL IN HIS POWER TO DESTROY CHRIST BEFORE HE REACHED THE CROSS.

(4).NUMEROUS TIMES THE CROWD PICKED UP STONES TO KILL HIM.

ST. JOHN 13:27 “AND AFTER THE SOP, SATAN ENTERED INTO HIM. THEN SAID JESUS UNTO HIM, THAT THOU DOEST, DO QUICKLY.”

(5).JESUS WAS SPEAKING TO JUDAS. SATAN HAD ENTERED INTO HIM WITH A MISSION OF DESTROYING THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST, BUT ONLY HASTENED IT INSTEAD.

(6).TRULY CHRIST DEFEATED THE INTENTIONS OF SATAN IN HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH AND HIS RESURRECTION.

HEBREWS 2:14 “FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE ALSO HIMSELF LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;”

I JOHN 3:3 “FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED, THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.”

(C). IT WAS POWER OVER DEATH.

(1).DEATH IS THE LAST ENEMY.

(2).BEFORE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, DEATH HELD UNCERTAINTIES AND FEAR.

(3).HOW COULD WE KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ITS MYSTERIES?

(4).BUT NOW, CHRIST HAS OVERCOME DEATH THROUGH THE RESURRECTION.

(5).CHRIST SAVES US FROM OUR SINS; HE GIVES

US MANY BLESSINGS AS HIS CHILDREN.
 (6).TO THE CHRISTIAN, DEATH IS A MERE
 OBSTACLE BETWEEN US AND OUR SAVIOR.

I CORINTHIANS 15:20, 22, 53-55 **“BUT NOW IS CHRIST
 RISEN FROM THE DEAD, AND BECOME THE FIRST
 FRUITS OF THEM THAT SLEPT...FOR AS IN ADAM ALL
 DIE, EVEN SO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL ME MADE
 ALIVE...FOR THIS CORRUPTIBLE MUST PUT ON
 INCORRUPTION, AND THIS MORTAL SHALL PUT ON
 IMMORTALITY, THEN SHALL BE TO PASS THE SAYING
 THAT IS WRITTEN, DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN
 VICTORY. O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE,
 WHERE IS THY VICTORY?”**

(III). IT WAS THE MORNING OF A NEW KIND OF PROMISE.
(MATTHEW 28:7) “THERE SHALL YE SEE HIM.”

**(A). BEFORE THIS SPECIAL EASTER MORNING, NO ONE
 EXPECTED TO SEE THEIR DEAD LOVED ONES
 AGAIN.**

**(1).THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR THOSE WHO
 STOOD AMONG THE TOMBS AND MOURNED
 THEIR DEAD LOVED ONES.**

**(2).WHILE THE DEATH OF CHRIST PAID THE SIN
 DEBT OF EVERY PERSON WHO LIVED OR
 WOULD EVER LIVE, THE RESURRECTION
 LEGITIMIZED CHRISTIANITY AS A RELIGION
 AND PLACED IT AT THE TOP OF THE
 WORLD’S RELIGIONS.**

**(3).NO OTHER RELIGIOUS LEADER OR SO-
 CALLED “god” HAD BEEN RAISED FROM THE
 DEAD.**

**(B). EASTER MORNING BROUGHT US THE PROMISE OF
 A VICTORIOUS LIFE.**

**(1).WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO KNOW THAT WE
COULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND FULFILLED IN
OUR LIVES?**

**(2).THE ANGELS TOLD THE DISCIPLES "...AND
LO, HE GOETH BEFORE YOU."**

**(3).WHEREVER WE GO AND WHATEVER WE DO,
CHRIST HAS GONE BEFORE US.**

**(4).HE KNOWS OUR WEAKNESSES AND OUR
FRAILTIES;**

**(5).HE KNOWS OUR FAILURES AND OUR
SORROWS.**

**(6).HE HAS MADE THE WAY FOR US AND
PROMISED US, "THANKS BE TO GOD WHICH
GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST." (I CORINTHIANS 15:57).**

**(C). EASTER MORNING BROUGHT US THE PROMISE OF
A VISION OF CHRIST.**

**(1).THOSE WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN CHRIST
ARE EITHER SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY OR
TELLING AN OUTRIGHT LIE.**

**(2).NO ONE HAS, WITH THE HUMAN EYE, SEEN
CHRIST IN OUR DAY, BUT WE SHALL SEE HIM
ONE DAY.**

**(3).THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT CHRIST WILL
RETURN FOR HIS SAINTS IN THE RAPTURE.(I
COR. 15:51-54).**

**(4).SOME SCHOLARS DENY THE LITERAL
RETURN OF CHRIST.**

(5).BUT I BELIEVE THAT THE CHRIST WHO WAS

**RAISED FROM THE DEAD, HAS THE POWER
TO RETURN AGAIN BODILY TO THE EARTH.**

**(6).IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE LITERAL
RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, YOU SHOULD
HAVE NO TROUBLE BELIEVING IN THE
SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**

CONCLUSION

**I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M GLAD THAT I BELIEVE
IN JESUS CHRIST.**

**(A). ALL THAT I AM, AND ALL THAT I WILL EVER BE,
WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY JESUS CHRIST.**

**(1).IF IT WERE NOT FOR JESUS, I WOULD STILL
BE LOST TODAY.**

**(2).IF IT WERE NOT FOR JESUS, I WOULD STILL
BE IN MY SINS.**

**HEBREWS 9:22 “AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY
THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT
SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION.”**

**(3).IT WAS NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO DIE. AND I
BELIEVE HE DIED.**

(4).I'M GLAD HE DIED.

**“I WAS SINKING DEEP IN SIN,
FAR FROM THE PEACEFUL SHORES,
VERY DEEPLY STAINED WITHIN,
SINKING TO RISE NO MORE,
BUT THE MASTER OF THE SEA,
HE HEARD MY DESPAIRING CRY,
FROM THE WATERS HE LIFTED ME,
NOW, SAFE, SAFE AM I.**

**LOVE LIFTED ME,
LOVE LIFTED ME,
WHEN NOTHING ELSE COULD HELP,
LOVE LIFTED ME.**

(B). I ALSO BELIEVE HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

**(1).I BELIEVE THAT HE STAYED IN THE GRAVE
ALL FRIDAY, AND ALL FRIDAY NIGHT; ALL
DAY SATURDAY, AND ALL SATURDAY NIGHT,
BUT EARLY EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, HE
ROSE WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**

(2).I'M GLAD HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD.

**I CORINTHIANS 15:13-14, 17 “BUT IF THERE BE NO
RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, THEN IS CHRIST NOT
RISEN: AND IF CHRIST BE NOT RISEN, THEN IS OUR
PREACHING VAIN, AND YOUR FAITH IS ALSO VAIN.
AND IF CHRIST BE NOT RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS VAIN;
AND YE ARE YET IN YOUR SINS.”**

(3).BECAUSE HE ROSE, MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.

(4).HE ROSE FOR MY JUSTIFICATION.

(C).I ALSO BELIEVE THAT HE IS COMING BACK AGAIN.

**(1).ONE OF THESE OLD DAYS, THAT SAME JESUS
IS COMING OVER THE CLOUDS, AND EVERY
EYE SHALL SEE HIM.**

**(2).I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT “O I WANT
TO SEE HIM, LOOK UPON HIS FACE, THERE
TO SING FOREVER, OF HIS SAVING GRACE, ON
THE STREETS OF GLORY, LET ME LIFT MY
VOICE, CARES ARE PASSED, HOME AT LAST,
EVER TO REJOICE.”**