

# DEATH To Life!

Resurrection Sunday

*After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

*<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” **Matthew 28:1-10**<sup>i</sup>*

Imagine the moment...

- An angel greets you outside the grave of your loved one.
- He announces that He has risen from the dead.
- He shows you the empty grave.
- And then sends you away on a mission – “*go quickly and tell His disciples.*”

The women left **AFRAID** yet **FILLED WITH JOY**.

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**They were afraid** of worldly bureaucrats - both religious and secular.

**They had joy** because Jesus is alive!

Why? He did what He promised He would do.

**John 2:19** “Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days.”

Now, we are God's temple and "God's spirit dwells in your midst" (1 Corinthians 3:16)

## JESUS DIED!

But not without a purpose.

There is a motto among some activists that goes like this: "They wanted to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds." <sup>ii</sup>

## Jesus' death was NECESSARY!

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### John 12:24

*"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."*

Everyone sins.

### Romans 3:23 NLT

*"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."*

Sin has punishment.

### Romans 6:23 NLT

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Jesus took the punishment of all people's sin upon his heart.

### 1 Corinthians 5:21

*"God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God [that we might actually share the rightness of God's character through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus]."*

The resurrection sealed the promise.

### Romans 6:4-5 NLT

*“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*

*<sup>5</sup>Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.”*

## JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY!

### Jesus lives in you by the GIFT of the Holy Spirit

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- To Comfort you.
- To Guide you in truth.
- To enable you to be Jesus to others.

Death is scary and unwanted.

It’s the one thing all humanity would avoid if they could.

There is a hovering darkness that clutches the atmosphere of any room where death is displayed.

But, as soon as a Christian service begins at a funeral, the light breaks through and death is left empty-handed. <sup>iii</sup>

**When songs of hope against the hopelessness of death begin, and the word of God is read aloud, light breaks through!**

Death no longer has a grip on the moment!

Fear Has turned into joy!

Life becomes bearable!

There is now *relative* and *significant* hope! The picture of hope is clearer, and the residents of heaven more real!

Lee Eclov tells the following story:

*One time a woman from our church brought her non-Christian friend to me because she had been deeply shaken by a funeral she'd attended in an African American church.*

*The singing and joy she encountered there literally terrified her. She could not imagine how people could react that way to a death. Like the women at the end of Mark, she fled from the tomb trembling and bewildered.*

*When I told her that Christians lose their fear of death because of our faith in Christ, she trusted him on the spot and went home rejoicing.<sup>iv</sup>*

Where are you in the room where death is visible?

Are you afraid of the darkness?

Is your burden lifted to know that death no longer can keep you down?

Can you see yourself being more alive after death than you are today?

Surrender to the love of Christ and He will deliver you from the fear of death and give you a life of joy today, and one of eternal joy in the life to come.

Without Him in your life, you will be eternally separated from the love of God in darkness.

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<sup>i</sup> All scripture references will be taken from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted.

<sup>ii</sup> Lee Eclov, Retired Pastor, Contributor to Preaching Today – a ministry publication of Christianity Today (published April 13, 2022).

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid