

Sunday - November 22, 2020

The Gospel of the Risen Christ

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Today's Scripture: Matthew 28:2-7

² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone [a]from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel answered and 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 is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

DO NOT BE AFRAID

- The followers of Jesus had plenty of reasons for fear
- We live in a frightening time and place as well
- Never forget that in the midst of it all, the voice of God is speaking loud and clear
 - Do not be afraid
 - I am in control
 - I care for you

DO NOT LOOK FOR A CRUCIFIED CHRIST

- "You seek Jesus who was crucified."
- At the crucifixion, they believed they had witnessed the death of everything they believed
- The last thing they needed to find at the tomb was a crucified Christ
- If His body was still in the tomb, then the hopelessness of the grave is waiting for us all

HE IS NOT HERE

- You can look as long as you want, but you will not find the body of the crucified One
- Some people would prefer a crucified and buried Jesus
- They want to make Him irrelevant
- If you are looking for a tragic body on a lonely cross, you cannot find Him

HE IS RISEN

- The empty tomb is ground zero for the gospel
- Christ carried all of our fear, all of our failure, all of our wickedness and brokenness to the grave, and He left them there
- To declare “He is risen,” is to bear witness to the fact that everything was transformed when Jesus rose from the dead

HEAR THE ANGEL’S INVITATION

- “Come and see”
- The resurrection cannot be experienced at arm’s length
- There is always room for one more at the feet of Jesus