

“What Makes Easter So Special?”

Matthew 28:1-6

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

Introduction: This morning, I want us to think about what makes Easter so special. I know the resurrection and empty tomb make Easter special, but what is it about the Easter story that makes it so special?

1. One of the things that makes Easter so special is that Easter is about last-minute victories. We all like comebacks in sports. The resurrection is the comeback of all comebacks!!
2. A second thing that makes Easter so special is that Easter is about new beginnings. The resurrection is all about new beginnings. Jesus came out of the tomb in a new body.
3. A third thing about Easter that makes it so special is that Easter is about having confidence in God’s promises. We see this in our today’s text.

Text: Matthew 28:1-6

- There are some important words in Matthew 28:6.
- “He is not here.”
- “For He is risen.”
- “As He said.”

Three times in Matthew’s gospel Jesus told His disciples what would happen, and it happened exactly as Jesus said it would happen,

1. Matthew 16:21
2. 17:22-23

3. 20:17-19

God always does what He says He will do. The Bible says, "God cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). The empty tomb is proof that God cannot lie.

Question: How does the empty tomb relate to our lives in the "now" and in the future? Think about it.

- The resurrection took place in the first century and we are now in the twenty-first century.
- How could something almost 2,000 years ago have anything to do with us today?

This is where the devil plays mind games with us about God's promises. We believe God's promises about life after this life, but we live doubting God's promises in this life.

T.S. This is how the resurrection 2,000 years ago is relevant to us today.

1. The empty tomb changes everything about our lives in this life.

- The same God who promised the tomb would be empty in three days is the same God who promised that a believer's life would be different (2 Cor.5:17).
- The same God who promised the tomb would be empty in three days is the same God who promised that His grace would be sufficient whatever we face (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- The same God who promised the tomb would be empty in three days is the same God who promised to meet our every need in this life (Phil.4:19).

2. The empty tomb changes everything about our lives after this life.

- Our next life begins the moment this life ends.

- The same God who promised the tomb would be empty in three days is the same God who promised believers eternity in heaven with Him ((1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- The same God who promised the tomb would be empty in three days is the same God who promised that every Christian will one day stand before Him and be evaluated on how they lived their lives (2 Cor. 5:10).

Application: How you live your life will influence others especially those closest to you. The influence could be good or bad. Either way, it will matter to you and to them.

Illustration: The Bible says, “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7). This is a promise from God that for some people will be good and for other people it will bad.

Application: Pay Day is coming!! You can deceive other people. You can deceive yourself. But you will not deceive God!

Conclusion: There is everlasting life after this life. You will decide where that will be for you. It is really a simple decision. You will either decide heaven or you will decide everlasting punishment in hell.

Invitation: The Bible says, “Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved’ (Romans 10:13). If you are not saved or if your are not sure of your salvation, this morning you can be.