

ROAD TO THE RESURRECTION



HE IS ALIVE

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Setting of Passage

- week of Passover in Jerusalem
- Lazarus, Triumphal Entry, Cleansing of Temple, anticipation high
- Religious Leaders plot to remove Jesus
- Last Supper, Garden Prayer, betrayal
- Trial, crucifixion, death & burial
- scattered followers, failure, fear, confusion



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John 20:1-18 “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. ⁴ Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.



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⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.



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¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).



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¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”



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1. The Discovery

a) Body is Gone

- Mary assumes – they have taken him
- Peter & John rushing to tomb
 - last memories not great
- Peter has to see for himself

b) Appearing to Mary

- earthly perspective – weeping & sorrow
- appearance of angels



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- appearance of Jesus
 - alive, ascending, it is finished
 - tell the others, don't just cling
- personal care, providing perspective

2. Appearing to disciples



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John 20:19-29 “¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”



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²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”



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²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”



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a) locked doors & fearful followers

- news delivered, they are in locked room
- afraid of Jews, will we be next?
- Jesus appears in their midst

** Jesus goes to them in their fear & confusion*

- evidenced power and authority
- shows them his hands, his side, real
- gave them what they needed to believe



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b) Jesus & Thomas

- not condemnation, meets him where he is at.
- eight days later – cares for the doubter
- addresses issue of trusting & faith

3. Words of Jesus Significant

a) 'who are you seeking?' 'why are you weeping?'

- perspective changes everything, what we see against what God is doing



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b) Peace be with You – three times to disciples

- shalom – inner wholeness, at rest
- shows the hands, side – this is how it is possible

- Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”

- my sacrifice has paid your price



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- justice satisfied, wrath of God turned away
- relationship with God restored
- Peace with God – possible now
 - Christ's righteousness yours
- Peace with Self
 - absence of guilt, shame, failure, possible
 - your price paid, penalty gone
- Peace with others
 - no division, brothers & sisters, family that knows forgiveness



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- Gal. 3:26-28 “ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. “
- receiving the peace is a choice
 - now available, need to choose to receive
 - John 1:12 “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”



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- Rom. 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

c) Purpose Restored

- not just for you, not the end of the job
- as I was sent – sending you!
- vs. 30-31 “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”



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d) power available

- receive the Holy Spirit
 - promised in upper room
 - Power of God in you – necessary

e) forgiveness granted & withheld

- my conviction – when you go as I send you, empowered by the Holy Spirit, speaking the truth of the cross & resurrection, I am speaking through you.
 - when people believe & respond, forgiveness is theirs



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So What?

1. In Times of despair & confusion

- see God's personal care
- receive God's perspective shift

2. In times of fear & failure

- allow Jesus to come to you
- receive the promise of peace
- allow your doubts to be confronted
- see the truth – God is able, Jesus has provided for us



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3. In Times of Renewal & Refocus

- choose to walk with new perspective
- choose to walk in peace
- choose to walk in purpose
- choose to walk in power

4. In times like these remember

“but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

