

Return of the King

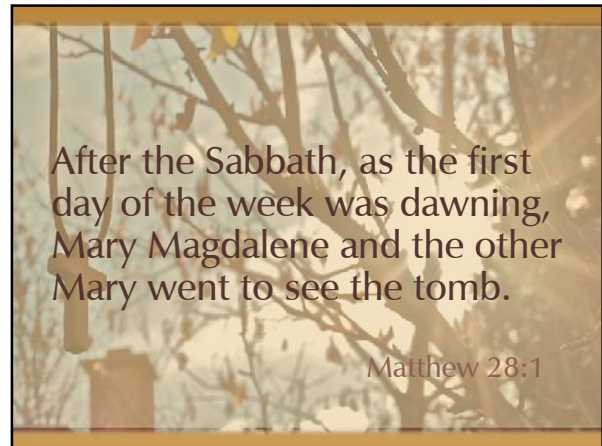
Rejoice!
Do not be afraid.

Matthew 28:1-10



After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

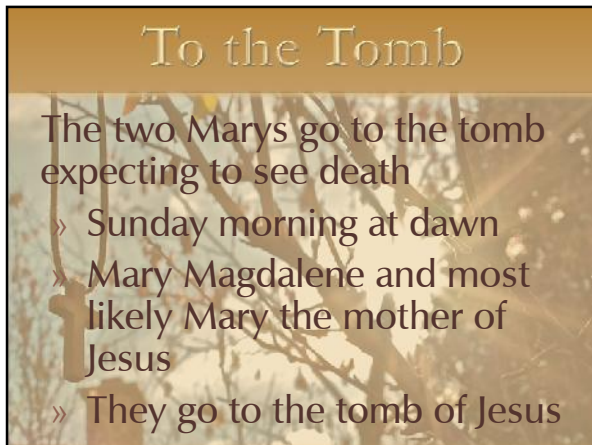
Matthew 28:1



To the Tomb

The two Marys go to the tomb expecting to see death

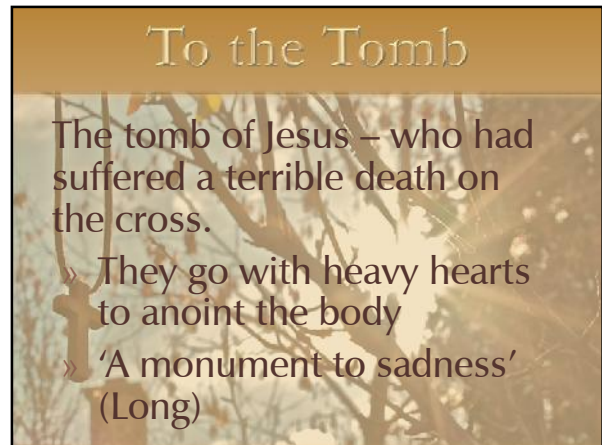
- » Sunday morning at dawn
- » Mary Magdalene and most likely Mary the mother of Jesus
- » They go to the tomb of Jesus



To the Tomb

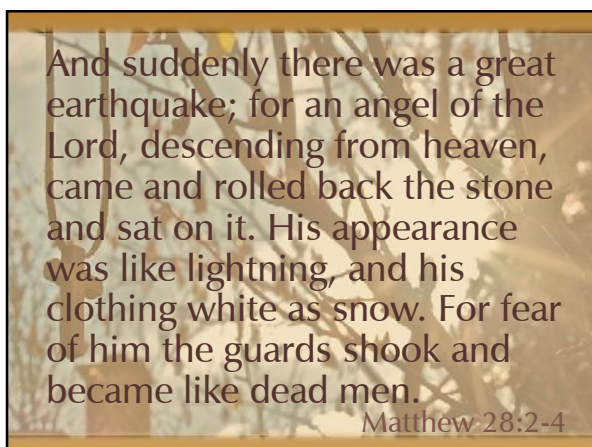
The tomb of Jesus – who had suffered a terrible death on the cross.

- » They go with heavy hearts to anoint the body
- » 'A monument to sadness' (Long)



And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

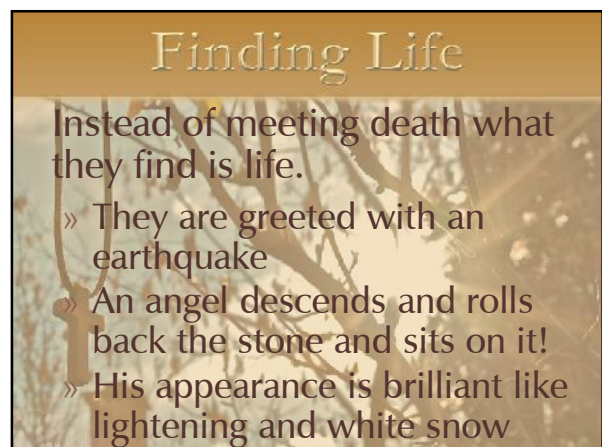
Matthew 28:2-4



Finding Life

Instead of meeting death what they find is life.

- » They are greeted with an earthquake
- » An angel descends and rolls back the stone and sits on it!
- » His appearance is brilliant like lightning and white snow



As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

Daniel 7:9

Dead Men

As a result the guards become like dead men

- » They faint from fright
- » An ironic observation – the ones guarding the ‘dead man’ become like a dead man

But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’

Matthew 28:5-7

Angel’s Proclamation

The angel tells them ‘not to be afraid’

- » Do not be alarmed. (v5)
- » At a deeper sense – you never have to be afraid again

Angel’s Proclamation

The reason: Jesus who was crucified has been raised

- » He was indeed crucified – but he has been raised (in the passive voice) he did not raise himself – but raised by God

Angel’s Proclamation

Go and tell the disciples that he has been raised from the dead (v7)

- » ‘He has been raised’ is repeated
- » An emphasis on ‘from the dead’ (nekros)
- » Tell this story to the disciples – this is your task

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Matthew 28:8-10

Meet the Risen Jesus

They leave the tomb with a mixture of fear and great joy

- » Running as they go
- » Elevated heartbeats – much emotion

Meet the Risen Jesus

As they go they see someone coming to them – they recognize him as Jesus

- » Jesus first word – Rejoice!!
- » Not simply greetings
- » Rejoice because death has been overcome

Meet the Risen Jesus

The women greet Jesus and worship him

- » They grasp his feet
- » Jesus tells them again – not to fear

Brothers

Go and tell my brothers that I will meet them in Galilee

- » Jesus changes the word 'disciples' to 'brothers'
- » A group united in intimacy in spite of the disciples failure

The Narrative's Purpose

1. God vindicates the crucified Jesus
 - » The world saw the crucified Jesus as a failure – defeated by the Roman powers and the local leadership

1. Vindicated Christ

Jesus has been raised by the Father

- » In the passive voice as noted
- » The resurrection vindicates Jesus person as the Messiah
- » God is the unseen actor in this drama

2. Vindicated Mission

God vindicates Jesus' mission which has become our mission

- » Jesus came as a Servant to accomplish our salvation and make us his representatives

But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.

It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; **just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'**

Matthew 20:25-28

2. Vindicated Mission

We have the privilege and task to follow in Jesus' way – be his representatives of light and truth.



Liberation by Frederick Varley