

What Would Jesus Do: He Would be Raised to New Life  
Matthew 28:1-7  
April 24, 2011

Read Scripture Matthew 28:1-7

When the angel is done explaining to the women what has taken place, he said, “**This is my message to you.**” Today we want to share what the Easter message can mean for us.

Jesus was raised to new life because **God’s purpose are unchangeable.** V.2 “An angel rolled back the stone”

The Bible tells us an angel of the Lord rolled back the stone that sealed the tomb of Jesus and “**sat on it.**” The angel sat on stone that seal the tomb of Jesus. It strikes me as funny the angel is just sitting there. If God sends you out to do work and your sitting down it means one of two things. It means either your goofing off on the job or the job is done and you are just waiting for further instructions. The angel was sitting down because God had completed the job. God had raised Jesus to new life. The only thing the angel had to do was open the door to the tomb and show the women, Jesus was gone.

But there is a deeper message implied here and the deeper message of Jesus being raised from the dead is that **God’s purposes are unchangeable.** Jesus was crucified by people motivated by the sin of self-centeredness and hate. Evil like that can stand in the way for a while. Meanness and cruelty like that can throw up the temporary speed bumps up to delay for what God is doing; but ultimately God’s purposes will be accomplished.

You may need that reassurance that principle this morning because you have had speed bumps of disappointment and hurt getting in your way. If you are human and imperfect like the rest of us, you

may even have been the source of some of those speed bumps that have tripped you up and slowed you down.

God's ultimate purpose for every human being is to know Him personally God and know that he is with us in this life and has eternal life to offer those who will trust in Him.

Illustration: Country music artist Carrie Underwood sings a song entitled "Temporary Home." Its a song about 3 different people all facing various changing dynamics of life including old man who is dying. Her song reminds us life is temporary. We're all just passing through. While we pass through we all face suffering and joy in this temporary life.

Recently in the news you may have heard the name of Grete Waltz. She won the NY Marathon 7 times. She was also a school teacher. Her life saw some great victories teaching children and winning at a sport she loved. But she was in the news because she lost her battle this past week to cancer at the age of 57. She died well before her time.

You might have recently heard the name of Walter Breuing. Until about a week ago he was the world's oldest man; but he died recently at age 114. Life is temporary even if we live to be 114, and then what?

But the stone rolled away reminds us that God's purposes are unchangeable. **He is present with us in this life to love and guide us and he wants us to be present with him in eternal life.** When we do die we stand before God and the greatest question God will have for us is what did we do with his son, Jesus Christ. Spiritually speaking did we reject him and pass him by like those who literally rejected him and passed him by that day on the cross or did we **ACCEPT** and **SEEK** him. Like his first disciples, like the women who came to the tomb? We can seek and find Him

because his purposes are unchangeable.

Jesus was raised to new life because God's **power is still available**. V.6a "He has been raised"

The message of the angel included the news that "Jesus had been raised." The word raised means that something that has no power of its own has been acted upon by an **outside source or force of power**. The message of Easter that Jesus has been raised is the truth that God's power is able to act in our lives and do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

The message of Easter is God's that power breaks into this side of life. God wanted to give hope to the women who were grieving and had seen all the trauma that Jesus had been through. They would leave the tomb different than how they came. God's hope and strength would give them new life. Think how realistic this scriptural truth is. The angel didn't wipe out the memories of the women of all they had seen Jesus endure. The empty tomb meant that God had raised Jesus from physical and God could raise their hopes and dreams that had died.

Illustration: Remember the first movie of Men in Black.

Remember how the two inter-galactic cosmic agents would show up on the scene when a citizen had witnessed an alien. The cosmic agents didn't want the secret to get out that many extra-terrestrial beings were on earth and could be dangerous. So to prevent mass hysteria when the person had finished telling the agents their stories of the aliens they saw, the agents would hold up a pen like object and have the person look at the pen and from the pen a light would flash and wipe out the person's memory about the shocking encounter of an alien as if it never happened.

You may be here this morning and clearly aware of some hurt some failure you can't seem to over. There might be something of

your past you can't get past. You may want and pray for God just to wipe out the past hurts. It may be guilt of how you have lived your life. It maybe a situation of stress and you don't see how you are going to bear it or get through it. It maybe trusting in God because you want to believe but somehow you're disconnected. Based on this message of the angel, I doubt God will wipe away your burden instantly. But the message of Easter is that his power is still available to help you grieve the hurt, bring meaning out of loss truth to admit mistakes, hope to face tomorrow. God can bring new life into to you and me by living like the women who went from carrying grief to carrying in their hearts a message Jesus was raised.

Jesus was raised because **God's word is still reliable**: "he has been raised as he said..." v.6b

The angel told the women that "Jesus was raised as he said..." The angel emphasizes what God taught in Jesus was reliable. The message of Easter is that God's word/will is reliable. It looked like for a while to the friends of Jesus evil won, hate won, greed won; but God's word is reliable. Jesus never promised there wouldn't be suffering. He promised he would over come the world and suffering sin of the world. You can count on what he taught you to come true.

But just remember this. Discovering that God's word is reliable does not come by completely understanding God through rationale explanations.

- After all, the angel shows up and shows them an empty tomb. He didn't show them Jesus in some transformed body.
- After all, to the friends of Jesus it didn't make sense that Jesus should suffer and die since he was innocent, since he healed people who were sick worked great miracles, yet he wouldn't save himself.

Notice that the angels told the women to go tell the disciples because Jesus wants to meet all them in Galilee. Galilee is significant because Galilee is where Jesus spent most of his everyday normal life. The angel said you'll find Jesus in Galilee. **The women would not know for sure the angel was real and telling the truth until they dare to put his words to the test and go to Galilee. They had to put the angel's instructions in action.** They had to believe enough to leave the tomb and go back to the disciples and then onto Galilee to see if Jesus would appear.

The message of Easter is that God's word and promises are reliable and we discover them by put the words of Jesus into action, all of them; not just the ones we want to do.

We discover God is reliable when we dare to pray in the name of Jesus and find empowerment in our Galilee - everyday life.

We discover God is reliable when we dare to trust God works on his time table not always ours. After all if God was working on the time table of the friends of Jesus, God would have intervened on Good Friday before the nailed Jesus to the cross; not early Sunday morning.

We'll discover God is reliable if we seek to find God at work bring His good out our suffering and tragedy.

Jesus was raised because: new life in Christ for **any one is possible. V.7** "tell his disciples"

The angel instructs the women to "go quickly, tell his disciples." We might think well sure the disciples need to know they were with Jesus 3 ½ years. They should know he is alive. But lets slow down for a moment and appreciate this situation. Remember these disciples promised Jesus they would stay with him through thick and thin. Yet they all at crunch bailed out. Yet Jesus wants these guys to know he is alive.

Have you ever had someone make that type of promise to you and

then break it. How eager are you to keep them current on what is happening in your life? The disciples even promised they would die with him. But they broke their promise. They denied him and they ran out on him.

So what is the message when the angel says go quickly to his disciples to the ones who bailed out? **It's a message that God can forgive anyone for anything. It's a message that new life is possible for anyone who will trust God to find a second chance.**

Jesus sent word to the friends who turned their back on him. Jesus sent word to the friends who were thinking they were strong enough, had enough faith, intelligent enough; but yet they abandoned him in his darkest hour.

You may be here this morning with great accomplishments under your belt but you have never have included God into your life except at Easter, Christmas, weddings and funerals. God is waiting if you want that to be different. God's friendship is still possible.

You may be here this morning with a long list of failures because of your poor choices but it is still possible for you to know and have the peace and favor of God in your life.

Many of are here like we are most every Sunday. God's grace and truth is available to us for the ways we can be so blind to our sin but we're excellent at pointing out the sins and weaknesses of others.

None of us are perfect. Pencils have erasers and computers have spell check because were not perfect. God is waiting for you to accept the good news of Easter and avoid the emptiness of a life and eternity without Him.

Pastor Dave Stone writes the following, 71 different times in the New

Testament the word "hope" is used? Seventy one times! But get this: only one time is it found before the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I'm no rocket scientist, but even I can conclude that God wants us to see that the Christian's hope is in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here is the question, then: Who is Jesus to you? Is he a liar, a lunatic, or Lord? You know what I think? I think whoever walks out of his own grave is whoever he says he is! (Dave Stone, "Death is Life" , preaching today.com)

**If you have never given God a real chance I today you will use Easter to begin to seek him. If you have allowed your relationship with God to grow distant, or problems in your life have grown greater than the size of your faith, I hope the message of Easter reminds you His presence, purpose and power is still available.**

**Lets Pray**