

Topical - Easter 2023

He Is With Us

Matthew 28

**We considered and remembered the Lord's death last week.
We watched the passion.
We remembered and celebrated his death with communion, worship, prayer and scripture.**

**We had a fun day yesterday.
But yesterday was not a day of fun for the disciples.
They were mourning.**

They didn't realize what he meant by rebuilding the temple in 3 days.

**But the day had dawned for them - and it was already different.
They just didn't know it yet.**

[Pray]

Read Matthew 28:1-4

**The ladies wouldn't stay away from the tomb.
They went home at night but had every intent of going back.
They still couldn't believe he was gone.
They were still clinging to him prior to his death.**

**Another earthquake. Angel rolled the stone away.
Remember, guarded by roman soldiers.
They saw the angel. Terrified them. Maybe fainted. Maybe knocked out.**

:5-10

The woman walk up and see this scene...angel says do not be afraid.

**He is not here. He is risen.
What a message. Relief. Wonder. Where did he go? How is he risen?**

Proof - empty tomb. Angel. Soldiers knocked out or missing.

They obeyed right away. Didn't inspect the tomb, maybe saw when the angel spoke of it, but they didn't hang around the grave when they heard he was alive.

A lot of Christians, Christianity, groups who claim Christ, hang around the grave. Are stuck on the cross - crucifixes. They focus on the do nots, the laws, legalism, fulfilling the law.

We sometimes forget that the purpose of the cross was the resurrection!

Not that the cross should be overlooked and forgotten, but that it's a foundational stone, an issue that IS FINISHED that we might live the resurrected life and see the Lord resurrected!

We can't live the Christian life, as intended, until we've seen the Lord resurrected.
My conversion, Paul's conversion, the disciples. All based on an encounter with him and the news of Jesus being resurrected

Their first task was to go tell everyone else.
They were assured Jesus would find them. They didn't need to look for him now.

Ran with fear and great joy

Look what they saw. What had happened. They had spoken with an angel. Jesus, whom they just saw brutally beaten and crucified, flesh torn from every part of him...is now not there? Alive? Walking around?
They had seen Lazarus come to life...but now Jesus!

The joy of their savior, friend, companion brought to life.

Jesus met them on the way

Sometimes we wait for Jesus too long, we look for him and don't find him...because we just need to be obedient to the word and vision he has given us...and he'll meet us on the way. Being busy about our father's business.

GREETINGS! Haha I picture some joy and love and tenderness but also maybe even a little bit of humor. Maybe they ran right by him and didn't recognize him and with a little chuckle he gets their attention.

They worshipped him. Ran right up and held his feet.
We have no need to fear the resurrected Lord. He is awesome in power, death can't hold him, **but he has no condemnation for us if we'd but come and worship**

Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers.

I love how he calls them his brothers. His family. His kin.

[Matthew 12:46-50 NKJV] While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You." But He answered and said to the one who told Him, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

He loves them, and us, so very much. So intimately. So specially.

Remember, that was a part of the point of the cross. Going there for us, out of obedience to the father, but also love for us.

"Oh, how he loves us!"

:11-15

The soldiers had come to or others found them and some went to the city. Not all did. Interesting. Were they done with their assignment? No more of this?

They told the chief priests. They themselves, the very instrument of the government and the establishment religion trying to keep the truth dead and buried became the very witness to the truth of God to themselves.

What hope for our age!

But they didn't believe. They took a bribe. Took hush money and lied about what happened. To save their own skins. They didn't want to be crucified for their inability to keep the tomb sealed.

But who could have? "Who can stand against the Lord almighty?"

But there was a leak from within the temple...someone in there believed and told the truth about the bribe and the lie. There was a whistleblower.

Another hope for the corruption of our age.

:16-20

They met Jesus on the mountain again. He loved being out away from the city and crowds, in the garden of nature he created with his disciples.

They worshipped but some doubted. Some of us are too hard! Too skeptical, of even our own Lord when he appears and speaks to us!

He is alive you know! And if he is alive he is speaking to you!

All authority.

He had taken on some human limitations before the cross...but no longer.

The authority he has he now shares with us in part - to go baptize and make disciples

Teaching them to observe. Obedience is still necessary, but it's obedience to the vision of the risen Lord and the words he always taught. It's not some new vision. It's not some new truth. It's the ancient truths proven true, proven right, proven godly by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Remember, I am with you always even to the end of the age

Just as it was Good to Remember the cross and good friday and his death

Let's add to the end of that...

It's good to remember that he is with us always

We have the holy spirit as our comforter and guide...but Jesus is just as much with us as the Holy Spirit.

[Hebrews 13:5-6 NKJV] [Let your] conduct [be] without covetousness; [be] content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD [is] my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

That even in our dark age. Even in hard times. Even when we're old and weary. Even when the world is more evil than ever.

He is coming soon and even up until that moment...he is with us.