

Easter Sunday 2006

The Greatest Day in History

Selected Scriptures

Introduction: In all human history, one day stands above the rest, the day Jesus rose from the dead. On that day Jesus defeated death and opened the way to eternal life. Resurrection day also inspires personal confidence that we can have a personal relationship with the God of the Universe.

1. CONFUSION – Easter morning is initially a time of fear and doubt as the disciples struggle to comprehend the empty tomb.

- A. The women walk to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices. Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1
- B. The women discover that the tomb is empty. Mk. 16:4-5; Lk. 24:3; Jn. 20:1
- C. The angels announce the resurrection to the women. Mk. 16:6; Lk. 24:4-5
- D. The women return to Jerusalem to tell the disciples. Lk. 24:9-11; Jn. 20:2
- E. The disciples race to the tomb and also discover that it's empty. Lk. 24:12; Jn. 20:3-9
- F. While everyone else returns to their homes, Mary Magdalene stays near the tomb. Jn. 20:10

2. CLARITY – Jesus' death and resurrection becomes clearer as Mary seeks him with an attitude of love. *Jn 20:11-18; Pro. 8:17*

>>> Note 5 examples of Mary's seeking love...

- A. Mary wants to be near the last known location of Jesus, and she is rewarded with a discovery about the deity of Christ. 20:11
- B. Mary calls Jesus "her Lord." 20:13-14
- C. Mary desires to serve Christ. He tells "the gardener" she will get the body. 20:15
- D. Mary addresses Jesus as her teacher: "Rabboni!" 20:17
- E. Mary returns to Jerusalem in confidence and announces the resurrection. 20:18

3. CONFIDENCE – The resurrection of Christ gives us confidence that we have a personal relationship with God.

- A. A personal relationship with God is a central theme in the resurrection accounts. Jn. 20:16, 17, 28
- B. A personal relationship with God is unique to the Christian faith.
- C. A personal relationship with God is based on humility. Mt. 5:3; Mk. 10:13-15; James 4:6
- D. Having a personal relationship with God gives us purpose in life. Jn. 20:17