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## Matthew 28:1-10 ~ Death Could Not Hold Him Down

### Easter Sunday ~ FBBC ~ 12 April 2020

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Good morning Church, good morning family, my brothers and sisters, and fellow followers of Jesus. I would if I could, but I can't, so I won't ... sing 'Up From The Grave He Arose'! I'll just let it ring in my heart, and I hope yours also.

#### **SLIDE 1**

Christ our Lord is Risen Today, Hallelujah.

What comes to mind when you hear these locations?

Botany, Castle Hill, Macquarie Park, Castlebrook, Field of Mars, Pinegrove, Northern Suburbs, Woronora, Rookwood,

Yes, grave yards, cemeteries! The final resting place for those whom have died.

In Jerusalem there is also a grave site a Garden Tomb where Jesus was placed.

Let's read about that burial site in Matthew 28:1-10

#### **SLIDE 2**

*Passage: Jesus Has Risen*

*1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

*2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

*5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."*

*8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."*

#### **Pray**

Yes we all die,

#### **SLIDE 3**

A final heartbeat, our body goes limp, lungs are going to exhale one final time. We all die no one escapes death, and one death per person.

The psalmist asked:

*what man can live and not see death, or save himself from the power of the grave, young and old, good and bad, rich and poor, no gender is spared, no person is exempt.*

Ecclesiastes 8:8 says: *no one has power over the day of his death.*

Julius Caesar died, John Lennon died, Elvis Presley died, Princess Diana died, Billy Graham died.

Statistics tell us that 6 people die a second, more than 6,000 people an hour, a hundred and fifty-five thousand every day about 57 million people die each year we all die no matter what we do or don't do.

Those statistics were taken BEFORE the Corona Virus raised its ugly head. The mind boggles as we now look at the deaths in recent days.

The finest surgeon might enhance your life but he cannot eliminate your death,  
You can pop pills, eat all the green vegetables you can take, stay out of the Sun, stay away from alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs!

Yes, you might improve the quality of your life, however you can never eliminate the inevitability of death!

The saddest thing for me at present in this current environment, is that one solitary life, that is so significant to God, and to those who love them, are now just a number, or tag taped to a double sealed coffin. Multiply that one life by hundreds and you get some idea of the present daily tally of deaths!

Yes, we all die, we just die, or do we?

#### **SLIDE 4**

We read in our passage that it was Sunday morning after the Friday execution.  
The executioners were confident that they had done their work,  
the spear to the side of Christ had made certain that Jesus had breathed his last breath.  
That final breath seemed to suck the air out of the universe and as his body lay in the grave,  
no one was expecting a resurrection!

The disciples were the only concern the soldiers the guards had.

The religious leaders were also concerned, they actually went to Pilate and asked him to have the tomb made secure until the third day otherwise the Disciples may come and steal the body and then tell everyone that he had been raised from the dead.

#### **SLIDE 5**

Truth be known, those disciples were actually in meltdown

Peter followed for a while from a distance, but then he caved in and cursed Christ.

John the Beloved Disciple followed Christ all the way to the cross and witnessed the crucifixion, but there is no indication that John, even John was expecting a resurrection.

The other disciples were hiding in every available corner and cupboard in Jerusalem for fear of being nailed to a cross that bore their name.

On Saturday night it seemed to all that the enemy had won!!            All hope had gone!

When the women came on Sunday morning they did not come expecting to talk to a resurrected Jesus, they came to embalm his body.

But wait there is more, God had other plans, he rocked the cemetery, there was a violent earthquake, the angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled back the stone at the entrance of the tomb.

Those soldiers, alive and well, were guarding tomb where the dead body of Jesus lay. The violent earthquake shook the soldiers to the ground, they look dead. The dead body they were guarding was now alive! How ironic is that!!

## SLIDE 6

The angel said to the women *'do not to be afraid for I know that you are looking for Jesus He is not here, he who was crucified, is not here he is risen just as he said.'*

## HE HAS RISEN

Those three words, translated from the Greek mean 'to awaken'

The angel says he has risen, he has awakened.

Now Christianity collapses like a ton of bricks if this is **not true**, if Jesus didn't rise from the dead.

The women, the disciples, they didn't see a phantom, they saw the risen Christ. Thomas touched the wounds in his hand, he touched flesh and body. The very body that carried him through Galilee and Jerusalem. They saw the resurrected Christ!

If Jesus is bodily raised as the Scriptures teach, that means that right now in the very heart of heaven in the holiest place in the universe he indwells in a physical body of flesh and bones. Declaring this promise, that what God did with Jesus' grave, God will do with yours. Christ has conquered death.

What God did with Jesus' body, God will do with yours! God takes our final stage of our lives and turns it into a Preface, a beginning.

## SLIDE 7

Yes, we're all going to face death (unless Christ comes first)  
But we will not face it alone and we need not face it in fear,  
Jesus said *I am the resurrection and the life and he who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.*

Do you believe in Jesus, then you will never die!  
Yes, your body might cease you may pass through a time of transition but you will never, never, die!

What a remarkable discovery.  
Everyone is telling you how to improve the quality of **this** life,  
but only Jesus Christ comes to you with life eternal.

I can assure you of this you will die in peace if you are in Christ,  
if you have entrusted your soul and heart to him  
then the one who defeated death will defeat yours

and the one who inspired King David to write these words

*“even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me for your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*

Jesus will walk you through the valley of the shadow of death.

But what if you never entrust your soul to Christ?

Then I guess you'll face death on my own, with no Shepherd to guide you, no Saviour to save you for eternity.

Death is only a doorway into life in God's embrace.

## **SLIDE 8**

Winston Churchill planned his own funeral he left instructions for two Bugler's to be positioned high in the dome of the Cathedral and at the conclusion of his funeral service the first bugler played the song taps the song that signals the end of the day.

Then seamlessly flowed into a second bugler began to play revelry the song of a day begun,

The day is over, our earthly life is over. Followed with a new day has begun, risen to life eternal.

In the hands of Christ, the cemetery becomes the place where we go to die but it's really the place where we are called to live, to awaken.

God who raised his son from the dead will raise you, the same God who emptied that grave will empty yours.

## **SLIDE 9**

Billy Graham was asked, “which is more important, Christ's crucifixion or his resurrection?”

This is his answer:

Both Jesus' death on the cross and His Resurrection from the dead are equally important; they cannot be separated from each other.

Without Jesus' death, we have no hope of God's forgiveness;  
and without Jesus' resurrection, we have no hope of eternal life.  
Like the two wings of an airplane, both are essential!

Why is this?

The reason is because our greatest need is to be forgiven of our sins.  
Sin separates us from God, and until we're forgiven and cleansed of our sins,  
we have no hope of eternal life in heaven.

We can't cleanse ourselves of our sins, no matter how hard we try, that's why we need Christ. He was without sin, but on the cross all our sins were placed on Him,  
and He took the judgment we deserve.

In other words, on the cross Jesus became the final and complete sacrifice for our sins.  
But by His Resurrection, Jesus broke the power of sin and death and hell and Satan,  
and now we no longer need to fear what lies beyond the grave!

Jesus' resurrection confirmed that God accepted His sacrifice,

and by putting our faith and trust in Him we will be saved.

## **SLIDE 10**

Death could not hold Him down, therefore if we are in Christ, death cannot hold us down!

**PRAY**