

Easter Sunday – Sunrise Devotion

Because He lives

God sent His Son
They called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives

Easter Sunday is a calendar day we set aside to remember the resurrection of Jesus.

But how do you that Jesus was raised from the dead?
Do you have to have a lot of faith and try really hard to believe?
Do you have to be very holy and closer to Jesus than others in order to believe?
Many may be asking how they can KNOW that the story is true...
Let's look at the Bible together.

John 20:1-3 (NIV)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

John 20:4-7 (NIV)

Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

John 20:8-13 (NIV)

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the

dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

John 20:14-18 (NIV)

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

John 20:19-22 (NIV)

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

But how do you that Jesus was raised from the dead?

- We could talk about historical evidence. There is lots of historical evidence.
- We could show how reliable scripture is by diving into Bible prophecy, and then because scripture is trustworthy we should agree with the Biblical account of the resurrection.
- We could talk about how those who testified of Jesus' resurrection believed it so much that they were willing to die.

These are all valuable logical reasons, but really the best way to know Jesus rose from the dead is to experience a living Jesus.

Mary Magdalene saw an empty tomb, but she didn't believe Jesus was alive.

Mary told Peter & John...they were close to Jesus... they ran to the tomb and saw it empty, but did not believe.

Mary Magdalene saw angels and still didn't believe Jesus was alive...

Mary even saw Jesus standing right in front of her and did not believe...

She believed when she experienced Jesus calling her name.

The disciples believed when they experienced him and heard him say "peace be with you."

Today is Easter. Today is the day we remember the empty tomb. We will sing songs and read scripture together... BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

What we really need is to experience a living Jesus.

He still calls names. May He call your name.

He still arrives unexpectedly and brings peace. May you experience His peace today.

Jesus told those disciples to receive the Holy Spirit... The Holy Spirit is how you experience a living Jesus.

Pray

He lives

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way

He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart

Easter Sunday is a calendar day we set aside to remember the resurrection of Jesus.

We should remember every day that Jesus rose from the dead.

We should experience a living Jesus every day.