

## THE EASTER MESSAGE

## MARK 16:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup>On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

<sup>15</sup>When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, <sup>6</sup>but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Look, this is where they laid his body. <sup>7</sup>Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

<sup>8</sup>The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. <sup>2</sup>It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.

<sup>3</sup>I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins**, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup>**He was buried**, and **he was raised from the dead on the third day**, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup>**He was seen** by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, **he was seen** by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then **he was seen** by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, **I also saw him**.

## WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN?

## + GOD TOOK ACTION +

**ROMANS 3:23** "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard."

1. God's **LOVE** is Great

**1 JOHN 4:9** "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him."

2. God's **GRACE** is Good

**COLOSSIANS 2:13-14** "God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."

3. God's **MESSAGE** is Grand

**ROMANS 1:16-17** "For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes... This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

## + WE RESPOND +

1. We **RECEIVE** the Message of Easter

**ROMANS 10:17** "Faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."

2. We **BELIEVE** the Message of Easter

**ROMANS 3:26** "He [God] makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."

**ROMANS 10:10** "For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved."

3. We **CLEAVE** to the Message of Easter

**1 JOHN 2:24** "You must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father."

**HEBREWS 3:14** "If we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ."

**1 JOHN 5:21** "Keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts."