

## **“The Best Evidence of the Resurrection”**

Matthew 28:1-8

Sunday, March 10, 2024

**Introduction:** In three Sunday’s, we will gather in this room and celebrate Easter. On Easter Sunday, more Christians will be in houses and places of worship than any Sunday of the year. That number will be the minority compared to the number of people who will not be in houses and places of worship celebrating the resurrection. The truth is a great number of people do not believe in the resurrection of Jesus. For those of us who believe the Bible, it would look like we could just show people what the Bible says and that would settle it. The Bible tells us in each of the four gospels and in 1 Corinthians that Jesus rose from the dead.

We must understand other religions have different Bibles from the Christian Bible. Muslims have the Quran, the holy book of Islam. Mormons have the book of Mormons as their holy scriptures. Buddhists have the tripitakan (Tipitaka) as their scriptures. Other religions have different scriptures than the Bible we use. Even among Christians there are different feelings and convictions about the Bible. To you and to me the best evidence of the resurrection is the Bible. But to those who do not believe the Bible or just not sure about it, the best evidence of the resurrection for them is you and me. We can be part of the evidence.

**Text:** Matthew 28:1-8

### **1. We can be evidence of the resurrection when people see that we believe what God said.**

- The angel told the two Mary’s to come and see the place where Jesus had laid (Matthew 28:6).
- And they obviously believed.
- “Ran to bring His disciples word” (Matthew 28:8b)

**Application:** You can be evidence of the resurrection when people see that you really believe what God said. When people who know you best and others who

are around see you trust God in difficult times it is evidence of the power of the resurrection. When people see you keep your faith in unclear times it is evidence of the power of the resurrection.

**Illustration:** Last Sunday Vi Cooper watched our services on streaming in her hospital room. On Tuesday she went to be with God. Vi Cooper's faith to the end was indisputable evidence of the power of the resurrection.

## 2. We can be evidence of the resurrection when people see we care about souls.

- The angel told the two Mary's, "Go and tell his disciples" (Matthew 28:7).
- "And they went out quickly" (Matthew 28:8).

**Illustration:** The apostle Paul is a good example (Acts 8:1-3). Once Paul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, he lived his life caring about souls. The power of the resurrection changed his life, and he wanted others to know that same resurrection power.

**Illustration:** Bobby Grimes is an example to those around him. Bobby had a "Damascus Road" experience on "Bayarea Blvd" and it changed his life and since that day Bobby has had a passion for souls.

**Application:** If your life has been radically changed because of your encounter with Jesus you will be passionate telling others.

## 3. You can be evidence of the resurrection when people see joy in your daily life.

- We read about the joy in the two Mary's (Matthew 28:8).
- A joyless Christians is an oxymoron.
  1. Clearly confused.
  2. Run slowly.
  3. Awfully good.
  4. Small crowd.
  5. Open secret.

**Illustration:** It is evidence of the difference the resurrection makes in a person's life. When the resurrection power is in a person, they will have joy and people will see it. Dottie and I saw this Saturday morning in McDonalds. We went in for a cup of coffee and Sharon who is the manager was her usual self-smiling with joy. She is always joyful. People who do not know her may not know what it is. It is evidence of the resurrection power.

**Conclusion:** In his letter to the Philippians, Paul said, "I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead" (3:10, NLT).

**Question:** Is that what you want?

**Invitation:** First you must know Jesus in a personal way. Then the Holy Spirit will indwell you.