

## Resurrection Joy (Easter 2023)

### Introduction: Story of the first Easter . . .

#### Matthew 28:1-3, 5-7 (ESV)

(1) Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. (2) And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. (3) His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. (5) But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. (6) He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. (7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

**Consider this moment** - Deep Sorrow for so many! Some faithful yet grieving women going to the tomb to prepare the body.

**Now** - An Empty Tomb & and an Angel brings good news of resurrection. "Don't be afraid! Now go and tell the good news!"

#### Matthew 28:8-10 (ESV)

(8) So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. (9) And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. (10) Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**Jesus meets them personally** - they take hold of Him: embracing & worshipping!

- The resurrection is no longer just Good & Important information
- The resurrection is the experience of the presence of Jesus whom they had lost and now receive back!

They had all the right information, and yet they carried it with mixed emotions - fear & joy . . .

- So Jesus intervenes & addresses their fear!!
- Leaving them with only - JOY!!!

The Resurrection is about Joy - And Joy is a relationship word!

### 1) Joy is found in God's Presence!

#### Psalms 16:8-11 (ESV)

(8) I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. (9) Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. (10) For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (11) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

God's presence is the ultimate source of Joy!

**Presence** here means Face - (Face to Face / Turning to Face)

Share about the connection between Face & Joy:

- It's the recognition of love, acceptance, & attachment
- I am with the people where I belong
- A Baby - essential brain development from "face time"

Joy is still an essential component for the health of our brains!

### **Luke 2:8-12 (ESV)**

(8) And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. (10) And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (12) And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

God sent us good news - His Love & Our Rescue.

But he didn't send information - He sent a person

## **2) Jesus walked alone; so we would never be alone**

In a generation that is lonely, anxious, & depressed . . .

We have a Savior we can “look” to for help . . .

### **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)**

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Jesus endured the weight of our sin
- He endured the physical toll of beatings & death on a cross
- He endured walking it alone, abandoned by all he loved

In Jesus final moments on the cross, he cries out: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

Jesus is quoting from Psalm 22

### **Psalms 22:1 (ESV)**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**Verses 1-21** describe in stunning detail the suffering of David / humanity / and ultimately - Jesus on the cross

Then in verse 22 in the midst of this pain & seeming isolation from God - the suffering servant speaks to his people:

### **Psalms 22:22-24 (ESV)**

(22) I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: (23) You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! (24) For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Jesus experienced isolation, so we never have to be alone again!

### 3) Resurrection Joy is Available

#### John 3:3 (ESV)

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

We need new birth to truly see our King. The Joy we lack is found in the face of King Jesus . . . Let’s take a look for a moment . . .

Micah Adoption Story - At the orphanage & on the plane

#### 1 Peter 1:3, 8-9 (ESV)

(3) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . . (8) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and **rejoice with joy** that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

He’ll take us back to where we started - we can become like a child again and experience the Joy of Salvation!!

### 4) We are meant to be carriers of Joy!

Over & Over in the NT we see the Joy that is shared between followers of Jesus . . .

#### 2 John 1:12 (ESV)

Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

- Texting isn’t enough - we need face time!

#### 2 Timothy 1:4 (ESV)

As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy.

- Joy isn’t the absence of pain & difficulty; it’s the presence of people who love you & are with you!

#### Philemon 1:7 (ESV)

For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

- We are refreshed when we experience joy in each other’s presence!

**Closing:** Read the Lord’s Blessing from Numbers 6

#### Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)

24 The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.