

## AFRAID YET FILLED WITH JOY Text: Matthew 28:1-10

**Key Word:** Fear

**Key Thought:** Fearful yet filled with Joy

The Biblical record of the resurrection of Jesus is the most powerful message this world has ever been told. Yet even before the first day ended, the chief priest already bribed the Roman guards to lie about it (Matthew 28:11-15). That shouldn't surprise any of us who have lived among evil people. Some stories contain more fiction than fact. Some stories contain no facts at all.

**\*\*** I heard a story a few years ago about two frogs that were sunning themselves on a log that was floating down a river. One of the frogs fell off while the other remained on the log. You are probably wondering *“Why did only one fall off?”* It's because the other frog was a little *“more on.”*

When it comes to the Bible we need to be a little *“more on”* so we don't fall. Yes you can tell your family and friends that your pastor said he likes it when you're a **little moron but please explain what I mean.** **\*\***

**Lets Take Some Time to Review the Facts in this Story.**

### **I. THE SPICES, SEPULCHRE AND STONE**

Jesus was crucified and died at 3:00 Pm (Mark 15:33) also known as the ninth hour. This was commonly described as the Day of Preparation (Mark 15:42) and what a Preparation it was. No work could be done after 6:00 Pm or the twelfth hour because it became the Sabbath. So Jesus' body had to be removed from the cross and permission had to be granted by Pilate for Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus for them to place Him in a tomb in Gethsemane.

Joseph owned this tomb and no one else had ever been buried in it. It was traditional to cover the body in linen cloth called a shroud or a sudarium while the hands and feet were covered separately. Jesus' head was covered separately. Those of royalty also had spices mixed in with the burial cloth. The more spices and aloes that were used pointed to the greatness of the person.

John 19:39 reveals that Nicodemus had already used spices on the body of Jesus: *“Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. The cost of the tomb was very expensive and the spices are estimated in our time to be about \$150,000 and \$200,000.”* Luke 23:56 adds that, on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome and Joanna) *“went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.”* We are not told how heavy their spices were. They left before the sun rose and arrived at the tomb at dawn on Sunday.

## I. THE SPICES, SEPULCHRE AND STONE (Contd.)

The stone that was rolled to the front of the sepulchre by Joseph (Matthew 27:63) was not a tombstone. It did not have "Jesus, the son of Joseph of Nazareth" inscribed upon it. It did not have the year of His birth or His death chiselled into the rock. He lived for 33 years. A Jewish priest could not serve until he was 30 years of age and had to step down from serving once he turned 50 years (cf. - Numbers 4:3; Luke 3:21).

An inscription of BC 63 would mean **63 years before Christ**. There was no year 0. The year 1 A.D immediately followed B.C. 1. When we write 33 A.D. we are saying the 33 rd year "**anno Domini**" or "**in the year of the Lord**" or as it was originally taken from "*anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi*," which translates to "***in the year of the Lord Jesus Christ.***"

The stone was placed into a groove and placed into a position above grade to the side of the open space.

*"The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate.  
63. "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.'  
64. So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."  
65. "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "**Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.**"  
66. **So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.**"*

*Matthew 27:62-66*

Not only was there nothing written on the stone but there was also no information on the body even if it was placed in a multiple sepulchre at first. The family would return after a year to collect the bones of their loved ones and place it into an ossuary. The information would be inscribed on the ossuary box and then placed into an inner chamber that held the dead bodies of their ancestors. There were no bones of Jesus to collect after three days.

The Roman seal would be that of Pilate's. It was endorsed all the way to the emperor Caesar who believed he was god. To break the seal between the rock and the wall with the Roman insignia upon it be to put your life in danger with no questions asked.

## **I. THE SPICES, SEPULCHRE AND STONE (Contd.)**

*“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.”*

*Matthew 28:2*

Heaven didn't do this secretly and in fear of Rome. It was time to make a proclamation that Jesus is the King of kings and the LORD of Lords. Rome - your seal has no authority compared to God's seal and WHO heaven declares is the ONE WHO is worthy.

Heaven already has a song to sing to proclaim the truth of the throne of God and the authority that cannot be denied and will not be challenged in all of eternity to come.

*“Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. **He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.**”*

*Revelation 5:5*

*And they sang a new song, saying:*

***“You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
because you were slain,  
and with your blood you purchased for God  
persons from every tribe and language and  
people and nation.  
10. You have made them to be a kingdom and  
priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the  
earth.”***

*Revelation 5:9-10*

## I. THE SPICES, SEPULCHRE AND STONE (Contd.)

11. *Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.*

12. *In a loud voice they were saying:*

***“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and  
strength and honor and glory and praise!”***

13. *Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:*

***“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise and honor and glory and power,  
for ever and ever!”***

*Revelation 5:11-13*

## II. THE PASSOVER

Another vital part to understand is what The Passover is all about. It has been explained in detail at its initiation in Exodus 12.

*“Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them,  
“Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter  
**the Passover lamb.***

22. *Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning.*

23. *When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.*

*Exodus 12:21-23*

## II. THE PASSOVER (Contd.)

This command was given to the children of Israel to obey **as a lasting ordinance**. You may wonder where all of this story changed with the introduction of the word “Easter.” Its clear that the name for this day should be “**passover**” and nothing else. It comes from the Latin word pascha, from the Ancient Greek πάσχα (paskha, “Passover”), from Aramaic פִּסְחָא (paskha), from Hebrew פֶּסַח (pesakh) .

In 325 CE the Christian Council of Nicaea called by Emperor Constantine established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after equinox on March 21. This changed how Easter was calculated, moving it off from the Passover date. Easter and Passover now are usually very close in the calendar, usually just a few days apart.

The naming of the celebration as “**Easter**” seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at the beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century.

It’s interesting to me how the word **Easter** (with its vague origin) not only **Took Off** but also **Took Over the meaning of the Passover**. How sad! Moses left with his people in 2666 BC from Egypt to journey to the promised land. Liberal scholars foolishly doubt if Moses ever existed even though his story can be found on the encryptions on the walls of Egypts’ ancient artifacts. Why does 4686 years of recorded history get left in the dust, especially in the last 250 years or should I say the last 50 years. I can’t believe that the word “**Easter**” replaces “**Passover**” in the KJV in Acts 12:4. It has nothing to do with animal reproduction.

## III. THE RESURRECTION

*“Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
6. He is not here: he has risen! Remember how he  
told you when he was still with you in Galilee  
7. The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands  
of sinful men, be crucified and the third day rise  
again.”  
8. Then they remembered his words.”*

*Luke 24:5-8*

And he **rose again**. Have you ever wondered when did He rise the first time and then the second time. There can only be a few explanations. The word describing Him being risen is found throughout the New Testament in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans (10:6), First Corinthians (2:9), Galatians (2:1-2), Ephesians (4:8-10), and Revelation, the Greek verb “*anabaino*” meant “*go up*” or “*ascend*.”

### III. THE RESURRECTION (Contd.)

Here is an explanation I'VE NEVER HEARD OF but it doesn't mean it is not what Jesus meant when He said He would Rise Again. This verb "*anabaino*" is first used in Matthew 3:16; Jesus "*went up*" from the water after being baptized by John.

The word used for baptism is "*baptizo*" which means "*to immerse or dip*." It does not mean to sprinkle. Therefore, everyone who is baptized as a believer in Jesus Christ follows His pattern of going down into the water; is buried (or totally submerged in the water) and then rises again to declare the new birth in Christ. When John questioned Jesus about who should be baptised,

*"Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this **to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then John consented.*

*16. As soon as Jesus was baptized, **he went up out of the water.** At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.*

*17. And a voice from heaven said, "**This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**"*

*Matthew 3:15-17*

Righteousness is not obtained through water baptism. If we go in the water as a dry person unforgiven by God, we will come out of the water as a wet person still unforgiven by God. Baptism is an act of obedience. It doesn't gain us salvation. Only the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus can pay that price for our sin.

Yet both Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances the Church has been commanded to follow. These keep reminding us that our Lord died, was buried and He rose again (went up out of the water like Jonah) and also from the grave after three days.

*Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."*

*39. He answered, "**A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.***

*40. For as Jonah was **three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**"*

*Matthew 12:38-40*

Today we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe the present condition of the Church is that we are still **Afraid yet filled with Joy** (Matthew 28:10). So what should we do. Fear Not and go forth in Joy.

Take the last few minutes to watch these videos that inspire me every time I watch them. Just click on the 3 links below to listen and watch three great videos.

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2020\The Resurrection of Christ\Matthew 28\_1.10.wpd

Date: April 12/20

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: He's Alive - Don Fancisco

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Lmv\\_xR6\\_q8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Lmv_xR6_q8)

Rise Again - Dallas Holm

<https://youtu.be/APuy2dJrqYk>

Then Came the Morning - Guy Penrod

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11Q2-sYAo-M>

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*Matthew 28:11-15*

**Lets Take Some Time to Review the Facts in this Story.**

**I. THE SPICES, SEPULCHRE AND STONE**

*Mark 15:33; Mark 15:42; John 19:39; Luke 23:56; Matthew 27:63; cf. - Numbers 4:3 & Luke 3:21; Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:2; Revelation 5:5; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 5:11-13*

**II. THE PASSOVER**

*Exodus 12:21-23*

It comes from the Latin word pascha, from the Ancient Greek πάσχα (paskha, “Passover”), from Aramaic פִּסְחָא (paskha), from Hebrew פֶּסַח (pesakh) .

Acts 12:4.

**III. THE RESURRECTION** - *Luke 24:5-8*

The word describing Him being risen is found throughout the New Testament in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans (10:6), First Corinthians (2:9), Galatians (2:1-2), Ephesians (4:8-10), and Revelation, the Greek verb “*anabaino*” meant “*go up*” or “*ascend.*” The word used for baptism is “*baptizo*” which means “*to immerse or dip.*”

*Matthew 3:15-17; Matthew 12:38-40; Matthew 28:10*

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