

“When the Son Comes Up”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + April 16, 2017

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

When the sun was coming up on that first Easter Sunday, the women were about to realize that the Son of God had already come up from the grave!

The angel and the earthquake show that all of heaven and earth are moved by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Notice the irony in the story. The guards, who were charged with keeping watch over a dead man, are now “like dead man” while Jesus Himself is alive again.

Serving as the first Easter preacher, the angel reminds the women that Jesus had said He would rise from the dead.

The Gospel of Matthew records Jesus’ “passion predictions” three different times.
Why couldn't the disciples comprehend what He was saying?

Like the women, we are invited to experience the resurrection in two different ways:

- 1. Come and See**
- 2. Go and Tell**

When the women hurried away to find the disciples, they were “afraid yet filled with joy.”
What takes their fear away and leaves them only with joy?

Suddenly Jesus met the women, and they respond in honor and worship.

One day, you also will suddenly find yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ.
How will you respond to Him on that day?

How will you respond to Him today?