

Easter Evangelist;

**A man says to an evangelist lady who is preaching in the street during Easter.
"I know what YOU are! You're a 'happy clapper'".**

"Oh no I'm not!" she said. "I'm a Walkie Talkie!"

LET'S PRAY

Do you believe in miracles? I do!!!!

What Easter means to us is incredible. Today represents the beginning of all our lives and how we end is the miracle.

Today is what makes HEAVEN REAL.

Today, Jesus returned to show Himself and to confirm that He is God. The way the two angels appeared to Mary Magdalene and to the other Mary is what began today. Then Jesus meets them as they hurry to go tell the disciple's.

They got to experience Christ first. They got to see all the scars that He bore. The evidence of who He said He was, had to be breath taking. Without a doubt, they knew that Jesus was resurrected and has Risen!!!

At the end of Friday night's message, I asked you to try and imagine what all the different people might have been thinking between the time of His death and today.

Let's start today by reading some of **Matthew 28**

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.**

(Take a second and picture them running?)

9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

(What an image.)

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This was reality to them. They got to see Jesus first hand. They had Jesus' glory right in front of their eyes. What a glorious day. The peace, good will, joy, and Christ showing Himself to the two Mary's removed any doubt for them.

Absolute truth is at hand.

I've really have enjoyed putting this message together and it's such a difference from good Friday. We started with Palm Sunday. The week started with all the shouts of praise, then as the week went on, Jesus had to experience a brutal death because of our sin. Today, we all get to have a completely different emotion. Everything that Jesus told us, everything that Jesus came to Earth to do is now being "PROVEN". Anyone who doubts, has the ultimate proof for "Who is this Jesus"

The Great Commission

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

God could have chosen to just take Jesus away but, instead, Jesus stayed for 40 days to make sure all of their doubts were lifted. I also love picturing Luke 24:50-53, refers to the Ascension of Jesus

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Today is all about "HEAVEN". HEAVEN is real and is available to all who believe. For anyone who comes to Christ and who is willing to believe that He died for our sin and is baptized, shall inherit eternal life in Heaven. Yes, eternal life in Heaven. Not Hell, but Heaven. We all have Heaven in our hearts. It's the brain that crushes this for some. We believe that Jesus came back to EARTH and showed Himself to the people and spoke with the disciples. God knows that man is in need of visual evidence. This act of love from God was for us to be sure of what we hope for. If Jesus never came to Earth or never endured the cross, how would we be able to believe? We describe "FAITH" as believing in what we can't see but God still showed man "Jesus in the flesh". God gave the eye the ability to see Jesus walking on Earth. It started 33 years earlier when Elizabeth and Mary conceived John & Jesus. We see Jesus was preaching in the synagogue when He was only twelve, this is all a part of God's plan. We have the proof of Jesus healing, and teaching for 3 years. We have proof of his arrest and all the persecution. We have proof of the crucifixion. But God didn't stop there. His resurrection and His ascension to go back to heaven was done for all to see. This is all proof that, "He is who He says He is". It's how we feel His glory inside of us. Today, only by FAITH, people have to believe that Heaven awaits. By FAITH, is how we receive the gift of the "HOLY SPIRIT". Only God can make heaven real. For all believers, It's undeniable and it's a reality. FAITH always gives victory!!!! Faith is what proves over and over how much God can be trusted with our lives. Because we believed by FAITH, that the word of God is

true, we have this peace that surpasses all understanding. The joy, the comfort, the smiles and the peace that we all have, comes from the emotions of the heart. Because of Jesus, we get to know that heaven awaits us and because of our HOPE of heaven, we can persevere all the evil that surrounds us. In Isaiah 65 God prepares His people and then He also later reminds us in Revelations 21. New Heavens and a New Earth

Verse 17, See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.

In John 14 Jesus Comforts His Disciples and talks about heaven.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Philippians 3;20 also speaks of heaven

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body

I’m a visual person. In Revelations 21 & 22, the way John gives us a glimpse of the new heaven is awesome. As I read through these next passages try to picture what John got to see.

Revelation 21 This goes back to God’s promise in Isaiah, A New Heaven and a New Earth 21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. 8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

This pertains to those who deny that Christ is our SAVIOR. John continues to describe The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia[c] (1 – stadia is 600 feet or 1363 miles) in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits[d] thick. (216 feet)[e] 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[f] 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. 22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

If we continue into Revelation 22, It can represent Eden Restored;

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God

and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of

life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the

nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

John and the Angel

6 The angel said to me, “ These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.” 7 “ Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

Then if we go down to verse

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

HEAVEN, HEAVEN, HEAVEN!!!! This is what makes our “FAITH” in Jesus’s story complete. This is what the race is all about. It’s not a sprint. It is a marathon. Years ago, I had a picture in my office that showed a runner on a road alone and the description read; You can be sure of one thing, there’s never a crowd at the end of the mile. All the tears, all the hurts, all the evil that Satan causes will “NEVER” again be part of us. We’re only here for a short time. Even though it feels like an eternity, we all need to choose Jesus for ourselves. Every believer can struggle with doubt but, Christ will never leave the heart of one of His children. If you need to claim Jesus for the first time or if you need to renew your FAITH in Christ, today is the perfect time. If you have a need in your life, find one of the leaders of this church or confess to Christ that you need His forgiveness. We can rejoice in knowing that Jesus returned to claim His own.

LET’S PRAY