



*The Imperatives of  
the Resurrection*

## **Sermon Overview**

After the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were given two imperatives: to come and see the empty tomb, and to go and tell others about the Resurrection. These imperatives are still relevant today as non-believers are called to “come and see” and believers are commanded to “go and tell” the world about the Gospel.

## THE IMPERATIVES OF THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-10 describes the discovery of Christ's resurrection:

<sup>1</sup> *After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*

<sup>2</sup> *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.*

<sup>3</sup> *His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.*

<sup>4</sup> *The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.*

<sup>5</sup> *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.*

<sup>6</sup> *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.*

<sup>7</sup> *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."*

<sup>8</sup> *So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*

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

*<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

## **MATTHEW 28:1-10**

### **TWO IMPERATIVES**

The angels give the women two imperatives, to “come and see,” and to “go and tell.” These imperatives are as relevant today as they were when they were first given.

### **COME AND SEE THE EMPTY TOMB**

For those who do not believe, the angels are offering an invitation to see the love, power, and peace of God, and receive salvation through the resurrected Jesus. When you witness the empty tomb of Jesus, four things become apparent:

#### **The Humility of Jesus**

Jesus is the perfect and sinless Son of God, equal to God the Father in all power and glory, who became human, lived a perfect life, and died a brutal death for our own sins. Someone holy and pure carried the horror and filth of the sin of everyone who will come to Him.

#### **The Horror of Our Sins**

Jesus suffered for our sins. Isaiah 53:5 describes His suffering and its purpose:

*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace*

*was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

## **ISAIAH 53:5**

Realizing that our sin placed Him on the Cross reveals the true nature of our sin, and leads to a hatred of sin.

### **Our Own Mortality**

Seeing that the sinless Son of God died is a reminder that we will all die someday and be separated from our friends, family, and possessions. We ought to consider the life after this one, and our eternal destination: Heaven with the Risen Christ, or Hell in punishment with Satan and his demons.

### **Only Jesus Rose from the Dead Never to Die Again**

The empty tomb shows that by rising from the dead, Jesus defeated sin and the grave. Every founder of the world's religions are still in their tombs, but the historical record reflects that that Jesus' resurrection happened and that the tomb of Christ was and still is empty. Christ and Christ alone rose from the dead, and Christ and Christ alone can give us eternal life.

### **GO AND TELL**

Those who have witnessed and experienced the power of God are commanded to tell the world that Jesus is risen and that there is a path to freedom from death and eternal life through Him.

### **A PERSONAL INVITATION**

Earlier in the book of Matthew, Jesus issues a personal invitation to

come to Him.

*<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

*<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

### **MATTHEW 11:28**

No matter what life holds for us, we can face it with confidence when we “come and see” the empty tomb and “go and tell” about the power of the resurrection. Jesus will be with us. If you have not come to Jesus yet, the invitation still stands: come and see.