

# He is Risen!

A Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ  
Matthew 28:5-6

April 12, 2020

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-20

## I. Introduction—3 categories of fear

### A. There are some things that everybody should be afraid of:

1. Rattlesnakes
2. Poison
3. Bats
4. Etc?

### B. There are some things that nobody should be afraid of:

1. Teddy bears
2. Cotton candy
3. Etc?

### C. There are some things that only some people should be afraid of.

1. Angels
2. Death

## II. The Seismic Setting of our text—What was going on? [See verses 1-4]

**Point:** The word “seismic” comes from a Greek root used twice in this passage. It refers to earthquakes or shaking. In our text, we will see that the angel not only shook the earth...he shook the Roman guards as well.

### A. Women were coming to the tomb of Jesus [v. 1]

1. What were they expecting?
2. What were they feeling?
3. What did they experience?

### B. An angel of the Lord causes quite a stir! [vv. 2-3]

1. His entrance creates an earthquake.
2. His appearance inspires fear and reverence.
3. His presence makes a couple of tough guys (Roman guards) shake in their boots.

### C. How does this affect how we understand this text?

1. We need to understand the incredibly stressful situation that the ladies were in.
2. We need to understand the frightening majesty of an angel of God.
3. We need to understand that fear can be very stubborn!

## III. The Soothing Statement of our text—What does the Angel say? [vv. 5-6]

### A. Do not be afraid

1. “I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.”
  - a. This validates the ladies’ fear.
  - b. This validates the ladies’ concerns.
2. “He is not here, for He has risen...”
  - a. This relieves the ladies’ deepest fear.
  - b. This relieves our deepest fear.
3. “...Just as He said.”

- a. This reminds us that Jesus honors His word.
- 4. “Come, see the place where He is lying.”
  - a. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is a literal, historical fact, not a spiritual sentiment.
- 5. “Go quickly and tell His disciples.”
  - a. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is good news that must be spread!

#### **IV. They Saw the Savior!**—The ladies encounter Jesus. [vv. 8-10]

##### **A. “And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them.”**

- 1. Jesus greeted them! Jesus didn’t leave them to their fear. He appeared to them.

##### **B. “And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.”**

- 1. Jesus accepted their worship!

##### **C. “Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid;”**

- 1. Jesus comforted them.

##### **D. “...go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.”**

- 1. Jesus commissioned them!

#### **V. The Spiritual Significance of the text**—What difference does this make for us?

##### **A. What’s the point? He is Risen!**

- 1. The resurrection is proof that Jesus is who He says He is.
  - a. Romans 1:4
- 2. The resurrection is proof that Jesus will do what He says He will do!

##### **B. So...should you be afraid?**

- 1. Don’t be afraid...be saved!
  - a. You don’t have to live in fear of death.
    - i. Hebrews 2:14-15
  - b. You don’t have to live in fear of God’s punishment.
    - i. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
  - c. How?

## **Because of Easter**

- Because of Good Friday you can look back and not be afraid.
- Because of Easter you can look ahead and not be afraid.
- Because of Ascension Day you can look up and not be afraid.
- Because of Pentecost you can look inward and not be afraid.\*<sup>1</sup>

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\* From my notes of a sermon by Warren Wiersbe.

<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Morgan, [\*Nelson’s Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes\*](#), electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 250–251.