

SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SUBJECT: THE MESSAGE OF THE EASTER ANGEL

SCRIPTURE: MARK 16:1-8

SERMON No. 33

Introduction

Throughout the Bible, God used angels to make special announcements to humans. For instance, He used an angel to:

1. Send a message of destruction to Lot in Sodom – Gen. 19
2. Announce the birth of Samson – Jgd. 13
3. Announce the birth of John the Baptist – Luke 1
4. Announce the conception of Christ – Luke 1:11
5. Announce the birth of Christ – Luke 2:8-14

It seems that when God has an announcement of extreme importance, He often sends that message through an angel. In our text, we are presented with an angel that made an announcement that still echoes throughout the universe almost 2,000 years later.

Fear and dread filled the hearts of this little band of women as they made their way through the still and dark streets of Jerusalem early that Sunday morning. They were going to the tomb of the man they had all believed to be the Messiah, the man who had promised life to all who came unto Him, but who was now, Himself, dead.

They were confused as they came near the tomb. They were also concerned about the huge stone that covered the door into the tomb. How could these three women move a stone that weighed several hundred pounds? Yet they proceeded on finishing the preparations for burial of the body of Christ. As they came within

sight of the tomb, they were astounded to see the stone rolled away and the Roman guards lying like dead men all around the mouth of the tomb.

They ran to the tomb and looked in, only to find that the body of Jesus was gone. Fear gripped their hearts! Perhaps they feared that the Jewish rulers or the Romans had taken the body to prevent His Disciples from faking His resurrection. Maybe they suspected that grave robbers had taken the body and would use it in some extortion plot.

Their concerns and fears were short lived. Suddenly they noticed a "young man" sitting upon the stone, Matt. 28:2-3. This angel sees their fear and begins to speak to them. In doing so, he delivers a message of hope that still has the power to change lives this morning. "The Message Of The Easter Angel." *It is a message of:*

I. PEACE (6a). "Be not Affrighted"

1. The first words from his lips are words of peace. Yet, this is how the Lord always deals with His people. After 2,000 years, His resurrection from the dead is still bringing that same message of peace to the hearts of all who believe in Him!

2. Notice just a few of the area of life where His resurrection gives peace:

1). Salvation – Heb. 7:25 *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

2). Death – John 11:25-26 I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

3). Eternity – John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe on God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4). Life Itself - John 14:16-18 I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. IU will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

It is not only a message of Peace, but it is also a message of:

II. POWER (6b). "He is Risen!"

1. Jesus wasn't the first man to get up from the dead.

Lazarus – John 11; Widow of Nain's son – Luke 7; Jairus' daughter – Mark 5, but He was the first to ever get up to die no more! All the others were just resuscitations, Jesus accomplished a true resurrection.

2. He was able to conquer death. All those who receive Him as their personal Savior become partakers of that same resurrection power. At the very moment of salvation, His resurrection is transferred to us and we become alive in Him. **2 Tim. 2:11.** *If we be dead with him, we shall also live with him.*

3. This great resurrection power will be realized when Jesus returns and raises the dead in Christ. 1 Thes. 4:13-18 I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 We which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

4. Every redeemed sinner is a testimony to the life-changing, life-giving power of the risen Christ. A dead man doesn't have the power to change anyone! But a living Lord can work miracles in any wrecked and ruined life.

Not only is it a message of Peace and Power, it is also a message of:

III. POTENTIAL (6c). "He is not Here!"

1. What was Jesus doing in his absence from the tomb? He was making the blood atonement on the mercy seat for the sins of the world. This work of the risen Lord is forever finished, **Heb. 10:12**. He offered one sacrifice for the sins for ever, and sat down on the right hand of God;

2. Jesus is still alive and active on our behalf. He is:

- i) Acting as our Intercessor – Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34
- ii) Watching over us always – Heb. 4:13;
- iii). Acting as our Advocate – 1 John 2:2
- iv) Preparing a place for Us – John 14:1-3
- v) Waiting for the Father to send Him after His Children – Heb. 10:13.

His activity is all for the benefit of His people!

A message of Peace, Power, and Potential, it is also a message of:

IV. PROMISE (7). "Ye shall see Him"

1. The angel closed his message to these women by reminding them of the Lord's promise. They would see him again. They had come to the tomb that morning expecting to see a dead body, they left it with the promise that they would look upon His living face.

2. We too shall see His face, not in Galilee, but in Glory!

- i) We will see Him first of all in the clouds above the earth, 1 Thes. 4:16-17.
- ii) We will see Him returning in glory, Rev. 19:11-16.
- iii) We will see Him ruling this earth as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Rev. 19:15.
- iv) We will see His face forever in all His glory in Heaven above.

Conclusion:

This is the most important message ever delivered by an angel to humanity. He is still saving souls today! He is still blessing hearts today! How can this be? Because He lives! Because what the angel said is still true, "He is risen, He is not here!"