

Those Who Have Not Seen

Easter Lesson

Introduction:

A. It was over:

1. No breath
2. No Anguish
3. No pain...
4. It was silent... finished!

B. Joseph of Arimathea- A secret disciple made bold by his grief- Asked Pilate for the body
-This lifeless body was taken off the cross and prepared for burial

C. Disciples, friends and family

1. They began to drift away
2. Locked in a private world of anguish
3. They did not understand

I. The certainty of His death

A. Was He really dead?

1. The soldiers knew **John 19:32-33**
2. His friends knew- Joseph of Arimathea **John 19:38-40**

B. The dead- Today we use he undertaker

-In Jesus' day-- friends and family were responsible (John 19:39-40)

II. The finality of the tomb

A. After the preparation Jesus' body was entombed (John 19:41-42)

- The day of preparation is the Sabbath (which began at sundown on Friday.) High Sabbath

B. Even in death Jesus was treated as a prisoner- Matt. 27:60-66

III. The glory of His resurrection

A. The darkness of that first Easter morning/ metaphor for those who loved Him and abandoned everything

1. The women came first **John 20:1a- Mary Magdalene**

a. Mark 16:1, Luke 24:1, 10 Mary, mother of James, Joanna, and Salome, other women (anoint)

b. Earth quake- **Matt. 28:1-2**

c. They see-- (A young man)Mark 16:4-5

d. But who rolled the stone away? Matt. 28:2-3 (an angel) **Luke 24:4-8**

2. Then the disciples hear the news (skeptical at first) **Luke 24:9-11**

a. So what do Peter and John do? John 20:3-5

The story of Philip

3. Mary Magdalene

a. Mary returns alone, weeping (John 20:11-13)

b. Maybe the morning was hazy etc...

c. She did not recognize the one for whom her heart ached (**John 20:14-18**)

B. The disciples see Him **John 20:19-23**

1. That same night the disciples were huddled in a locked room, fearful

- Jesus appeared showing them his hands and side

2. But one disciple was not present

a. Doubt was evident in his eyes

b. I will not believe (John 20:24-25) Aren't we like this?

3. A week later Jesus shows up again, this time with Thomas present

a. Thomas the outsider

b. He wanted to believe

c. **He was on the hill that Friday!**

4. But Jesus shows up again and gives Thomas the proof

a. His words were gentle, direct and convincing! **John 20:26-28**

b. His response is moving

C. The message of John's gospel **John 20:31**

Conclusion:

- A. What do you believe?
 - a. I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin
 - b. He loved the world
 - c. Died on the cross to forgive me of my sins
 - d. I believe he knew me when He was on the cross
 - e. **But mostly I believe what the disciples saw, the resurrected Jesus!**
- B. His resurrection is pivotal to the Christian faith (I Cor. 15)
- C. Do you know why the stone was rolled away?
 - 1. It was not to let Jesus out! But to let the disciples in, to see an empty tomb!
Funeral of Brezhnev
- D. We can only see with the disciples eyes... the resurrected Jesus
 - 1. My Lord and my God!! **John 20:29**
 - 2. What do you believe?

Scot Poirier

Minister

Chelmsford Church of Christ

205 North St.

Chelmsford Ma.

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