

EASTER SUNDAY - HE LIVES!

MATTHEW 27:57- 28:10

The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.

Message Outline:

- A. The Sweetness and Tenderness of Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-61)
- B. The Deceitfulness of the Chief Priests and Pharisees (Matthew 27:62-66)
- C. The Power of God in the Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Joseph of Arimathea model for us how to react when a friend dies? (go to great lengths to honor and show compassion to them and their family).
2. When they sealed the tomb they made it impossible for anyone to steal the body of Jesus. Sealing the tomb and setting up guards were the final pieces that would ensure that no one had access to Him. Why were they so insistent on making sure this didn't happen? We see the religious leaders state to Pilate that he had said he would rise from the dead. When did Jesus proclaim that he would rise from the dead? (John 2:18-22; Matthew 12:39-40; Matthew 16:21) You can read a good article at Blue Letter Bible that gives some insight into Jesus predicting his resurrection go to: https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_812.cfm
3. The phrase "Do not be afraid . . ." spoken by the angel to the ladies at the tomb takes us back to the beginning of Matthew's gospel when an angel used the same phrase when he appeared to Joseph and told him to stay committed to Mary. In Luke the phrase is used to calm down Zechariah when the angel brings him the news that he is going to have a son (Luke 1:13), and with Mary when an angel tells her she is going to be the mother of Messiah (Luke 1:30). Are you dealing with fear and anxiety as we walk through this new normal? Jesus came so that we don't have to live in fear. One of our favorite verses as a church is Isaiah 41:10. Read it and discuss how many ways God promises to encourage us and guide us.
4. Are you living in the joy of the resurrection? Discuss together how your life reflects the joy that you find in Christ. Are you lacking joy? Discuss ways you can remind each other about the joy that comes in a fully devoted life to Christ.
5. Did you make any decisions this weekend when it comes to your relationship with God? Have you drawn closer to Him? Did you put your faith in him? If you made Jesus Lord of your life tell another believer and ask them to teach you more about Him. Also find a local church where you can be surrounded by people who love God and can encourage you! If you would like to connect with Pastor Chuck about the decision you made to follow Jesus please call 610-432-3414.