



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Easter Erases Fear

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*(Matthew 28:1-10)*

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."

1. What would you say is your biggest phobia? Do you agree that your fear is caused by uncertainty? If not, what would you say causes you to have that fear?

2. At this point in history, the eyewitness testimony of women was not even considered to be valid testimony in the court system. If that was the case, why is the fact that women are the first witnesses of the resurrection a proof of its historicity? (Hint: Who do you think would have been the first witnesses of the risen Christ if the Apostles had made up this story and tried to pass it off as history?)
3. The Angel appeared to the soldiers and the women in great glory and displays of power. Compare the angel's appearance with Jesus' appearance to the women. What's different? Why wouldn't Jesus need to have a glorious appearance and displays of power to make an impression on these women?
4. In Matthew's writing, when the Angel says, "You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified," he uses a Perfect verb in the Greek. A perfect verb has the sense of "a completed action with ongoing results." Why is that so fitting for talking about Jesus' crucifixion?
5. In the Sermon, Pastor spoke of different things that the empty tomb proves. They're listed below. Explain how Easter proves each of these points. Then, discuss how each of these points help to remove fear and uncertainty from our lives.
  1. Easter proves that our sins are fully paid for
  2. Easter proves we have security from every earthly trouble
  3. Easter proves we don't have to fear death/eternity
  4. Easter proves that God keeps his promises
6. Think about one or two of the "fears" you've been struggling with recently. How does Jesus' empty tomb at Easter help you to feel certain and unafraid of that situation? Remember: "Do not be afraid...he has risen!"