

**Scripture Readings:** Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 24:1-12

**Singing:** 391:1-4 – 326:1, 4 – 427:1, 5, 6 – 29:1-2 – 422:5-6

### THE EASTER GOSPEL

I. Bewildering tidings for the ministering women

II. Gladdening tidings for needy disciples

#### I. THE EASTER GOSPEL WAS BEWILDERING FOR THE MINISTERING WOMEN

A. The 'Easter-women' have a special place in hearts of Christ's people

1. were of all disciples most faithful – tender (23:49; 55 – Luke 8:1-3)

2. power of Christ's Person and teaching drew them

3. yet they still were ignorant of His greatest glory: *the Cross*

B. How bewildered is everything they met at the tomb of Jesus!

1. First they found an opened grave and a missing body

2. Secondly they were asked a remarkable question by an angel

3. Thirdly they heard a bewildering and perplexing message

#### II. THE EASTER GOSPEL IS GLAD TIDINGS FOR NEEDY DISCIPLES

A. The angel didn't bring them an entirely new message: *vs. 6-7-8*

1. yet there was no room in their heart for His message

a. found sweetness in Christ's words and miracles

b. didn't understand the price for redeeming them

B. What are the glad tidings of the Easter Gospel for all needy disciples?

1. declares that our God is greater than all the power of death (6a)

a. we know how *inescapable – unsparing – irreversible death is!*

b. but Easter is *death is swallowed upon in victory: HE is Risen!*

c. Easter sings: What is impossible with men is possible with God!

2. declares that all Jesus' promises are reliable (6-7)
  - a. besides the promise to rise from the dead, Jesus spoke many other promises in His Gospel message
  
  - b. none of those would be *believable* if He didn't rise from the dead
  
  - c. the Risen Jesus confirms all His Words as true!
  
3. declares that Jesus' work is found acceptable with the Judge
  - a. the Father echoes Jesus 'Finished' in the resurrection of Jesus
  
  - b. the angel's question is therefore a *pastoral direction*: seek no more your life or hope among the dead!
  
4. declares that each believer in Jesus is completely acquitted of all the charges of the broken law against him/her: Romans 4:24-25

Close: For these reasons, isn't Easter a day to sing?

#### THOUGHTS ON THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

The resurrection of Christ is the Amen of all His promises. (John Boys)

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Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. (Martin Luther)

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Christ did not rise from the dead as a private person, but at the public Head of the Church (Thomas Watson)

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