

4/5/15

EASTER MESSAGE

TITLE: WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG
THE DEAD?

TEXT: LUKE 24:1-9

INTRODUCTION: (1) FUTURE PHYSICAL DEATH OF
OUR BODIES IS A REALITY THAT ALL HUMAN
BEINGS MUST AND WILL FACE.

* IN FACT, SHORTLY AFTER ADAM SINNED IN
THE GARDEN OF EDEN, THE LORD GOD SAID THIS
TO HIM IN GENESIS 3:19 (QUOTE IT.)

** NOW THE REALITY COMMUNICATED HERE TO
ADAM IS, ADAM, ONE DAY YOU ARE GOING TO
DIE PHYSICALLY AND YOUR BODY WILL RETURN
TO THE GROUND, YOU WERE CREATED FROM
DUST, DIRT, AND YOUR BODY ONE DAY
THROUGH DEATH WILL DECAY AND TURN BACK
INTO DUST.

*** ADAM, YOUR BODY WAS FORMED FROM DIRT AND ONE DAY YOU WILL RETURN TO DIRT, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE.

**** AND THIS TRUTH OF PHYSICAL DEATH IS REPEATED THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.

(2) FOR EXAMPLE, JOB SAYS IN JOB 30:23 IN THE NIV, THE 1984 EDITION: **"I KNOW YOU WILL BRING ME DOWN TO DEATH, TO THE PLACE APPOINTED FOR ALL THE LIVING."**

* AND THEN THE PSALMIST ASKED THIS QUESTION IN PSALM 89:48, ALSO IN THE NIV, **"WHAT MAN CAN LIVE AND NOT SEE DEATH, OR SAVE HIMSELF FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE?"**

** THEN SOLOMON COMMUNICATED THIS SOBER REALITY IN ECCLESIASTES 3:20 WHERE HE SAID: **"ALL GO TO THE SAME PLACE, (SPEAKING OF THE GRAVE), ALL CAME FROM THE DUST AND ALL RETURN TO THE DUST."**

*** AND THEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SAYS IN HEBREWS 9:27: (QUOTE IT).

**** NOW AGAIN THE CLEAR TRUTH IS DEATH IS GOING TO KNOCK ON ALL OF OUR DOORS, ALL OF US ARE GOING TO DIE PHYSICALLY AND GO BACK TO THE DUST.

(3) YET IN SPITE OF THAT REALITY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT DESPERATELY TO EVADE DEATH, AND RETURNING TO DUST.

* IN FACT ONE OF THE MOST RECENT HIGH-TECH ATTEMPTS TO TRY TO CHEAT DEATH AND NOT GO BACK TO THE DUST IS CRYONICS.

** AND TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT, WEDNESDAY I REVISITED A WEBSITE AT WWW.ALCOR.ORG TO THE ALCOR LIFE EXTENSION FOUNDATION.

*** THE WEBSITE BEGINS BY SAYING AND I QUOTE: **"THE ALCOR LIFE EXTENSION** FOUNDATION IS THE WORLD LEADER IN CRYONICS, CRYONICS RESEARCH AND CRYONICS TECHNOLOGY.

**** CRYONICS IS THE SCIENCE OF USING ULTRA-COLD TEMPERATURE TO PRESERVE HUMAN LIFE WITH THE INTENT OF RESTORING GOOD HEALTH WHEN TECHNOLOGY BECOMES AVAILABLE TO DO SO. ALCOR IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION LOCATED IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, FOUNDED IN 1972.

(4) AND ACCORDING TO **ALCOR'S WEBSITE, IT** EXPLAINS WHAT CRYONICS IS AND COMMUNICATES ITS PURPOSE. IT SAYS: "CRYONICS IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE THAT PRESERVES A HUMAN BEING USING THE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING HIS/HER LIFE."

*"WE BELIEVE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY WILL ADVANCE FURTHER IN COMING DECADES THAN IT HAS IN THE PAST SEVERAL CENTURIES, ENABLING IT TO HEAL DAMAGE AT THE CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR LEVELS AND TO RESTORE FULL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH." (END QUOTE)

** NOW THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, WE KNOW THAT NO ONE CAN PERMANENTLY CHEAT DEATH; IT WILL ALWAYS WIN IN THE END. CRYONICS WILL NOT ULTIMATELY DEFEAT DEATH, WE WILL GO BACK TO THE DUST!

(5) BUT THE GOOD NEWS OF THIS RESURRECTION SUNDAY IS THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS CONQUERED DEATH!

* **HE'S ALIVE!** AND BECAUSE JESUS IS THE DEATH CONQUEROR, ALL THOSE WHO TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT FAITH WILL NOT FACE **ETERNAL DEATH OR THE 2'D DEATH**, WHICH IS SEPARATION FROM GOD IN A PLACE CALLED HELL.

** FOR IN JOHN 11:25&26 JESUS SAID TO COMFORT MARTHA WHO WAS GRIEVING OVER THE DEATH OF HER BROTHER LAZARUS, THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM).

*** IN JOHN 14:19 JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, (QUOTE IT).

**** AND THEN PAUL REMINDED TIMOTHY IN II TIMOTHY 1:10 THAT, "**OUR SAVIOR CHRIST JESUS...ABOLISHED DEATH AND BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL.**"

(6) BEYOND THAT, THE WRITER OF HEBREWS DECLARED THAT IT IS ONLY THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST THAT PEOPLE CAN BE FREED FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH, HE SAID IN HEBREWS 2:14&15:

V. 14 – THEREFORE, SINCE THE CHILDREN SHARE IN FLESH AND BLOOD, HE HIMSELF LIKEWISE ALSO PARTOOK OF THE SAME, THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT RENDER POWERLESS HIM WHO HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL,

V. 15 – AND MIGHT FREE THOSE WHO THROUGH FEAR OF DEATH WERE SUBJECT TO SLAVERY ALL THEIR LIVES.

* NOW GET THIS, BECAUSE CHRIST HAS DELIVERED PEOPLE THAT HE HAS SAVED AND WILL SAVE BY HIS GRACE THROUGH FAITH, CONQUERING DEATH, FOR THOSE PEOPLE THE FEAR OF DEATH AND ITS BONDAGE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END.

** AND NOW WE THAT ARE IN CHRIST CAN TRIUMPHANTLY SAY THE INSPIRED WORDS OF PAUL IN I CORINTHIANS 15:55-57 (QUOTE THEM).

*** BELOVED, WE NOW HAVE VICTORY IN JESUS! AND LET ME ADD THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, JESUS PERFORMED COUNTLESS MIRACLES THAT MANIFESTED HIS DIVINE OMNIPOTENT POWER, BUT NOTHING MORE CLEARLY REVEALS THE **GREATNESS AND MIGHT OF GOD'S POWER THAN CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.**

**** AND I CAN THINK OF ONLY TWO THINGS THAT CAN EVEN COMPARE TO THE POWER OF **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION AND THAT** IS CREATION ITSELF AND THE RESURRECTION POWER IN MAKING ALIVE THOSE WHO ARE DEAD IN SINS THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH AND REGENERATION.

(7) WELL, WITH ALL THOSE THINGS SAID, TODAY, RESURRECTION SUNDAY IS A HOLY REMINDER AND A TIME TO REJOICE THAT CHRIST IS ALIVE AND THAT JESUS IS THE DEATH CONQUEROR.

* WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR TEXT IN LUKE 24. FOR LUKE 24 IS ONE OF THE GREAT RESURRECTION CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE.

** AND ALL OF LUKE 24 TALKS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST AND SOME EVENTS THAT FOLLOWED INCLUDING HIS ASCENSION TO HEAVEN 40 DAYS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION.

*** AND TODAY, ON THIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION SUNDAY, I WANT TO LOOK AT **DR. LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION, WHICH I'VE TITLED, "WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?"**

**** AND UNDER THAT **TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 4** POINTS AS WE STUDY LUKE 24:1-9.

(8) NO. 1 THE TOMB, VV. 1-4; NO. 2 THE TERROR, V. 5; NO. 3 THE TRUTH, VV. 6-8; AND NO. 4 THE TESTIMONY, V. 9.

* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE TO HANG YOUR **THOUGHTS ON, LOOK AT V. 1 WHERE WE'LL** START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE TOMB. LOOK AT LUKE 24:1 PLEASE.

I. THE TOMB, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW TO BEGIN WITH, I WANT TO LOOK AT THE PHRASE, **"ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK"**.

* AND THIS PHRASE LIT. MEANS **"DAY ONE WITH REFERENCE TO THE SABBATH"**.

** LET ME EXPLAIN: THE JEWISH PEOPLE DID NOT HAVE NAMES FOR DAYS OF THE WEEK, SUCH AS MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND SO ON, BUT SIMPLY NUMBERED THEM IN RELATION TO THE SABBATH.

*** AND SABBATH MEANS **"SEVENTH"** AND ALTHOUGH IT WAS AT THE END OF THE WEEK, BECAUSE IT WAS THE CENTRAL AND HOLY DAY, ALL OTHER DAYS WERE RECKONED BY IT - AS THE FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND SO FORTH, DAY AFTER THE SABBATH.

**** SO THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK IS SUNDAY, **WHAT WE NOW CALL THE LORD'S DAY, THE DAY JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.**

1. AND ALL FOUR GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN) SPECIFY THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK AS THE DAY OF **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.**

* THUS EVERY SUNDAY IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY FOR THE CHURCH AND BELIEVERS AS WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP OUR RISEN LORD.

** NOW ON THIS FIRST EASTER MORNING, AT EARLY DAWN THEY CAME TO THE TOMB.

*** AND THEY HERE ARE THE WOMEN WHO WERE DISCIPLES, FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, WHO HAD COME WITH HIM OUT OF GALILEE.

**** FOR PRIOR TO OUR TEXT, LUKE 23:55&56 SAYS THIS: **"NOW THE WOMEN WHO HAD COME WITH HIM OUT OF GALILEE FOLLOWED, AND SAW THE TOMB AND HOW HIS BODY WAS LAID."**

V. 56 - **"AND THEY** (THE WOMEN) RETURNED AND PREPARED SPICES AND PERFUMES. AND ON THE SABBATH THEY RESTED ACCORDING TO **THE COMMANDMENT."**

2. NOW SPECIFICALLY THESE WOMEN ARE IDENTIFIED FOR US IN V. 10 OF LUKE 24 AS MARY MAGDALENE, JOANNA, MARY THE MOTHER OF JAMES WHICH WAS SALOME AND ALSO OTHER WOMEN WHICH ARE NOT IDENTIFIED HERE.

* AND THESE WOMEN COME TO THE TOMB OF JESUS AT EARLY DAWN ON SUNDAY, LIT. PRE-DAWN BEFORE SUN-UP.

** AND BEFORE SUN-UP THEY LEAVE AND AS THEY GET THERE AS WE PUT THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS TOGETHER THE SUN RISES.

*** AND THEY COME TO THE TOMB OF JESUS GIVEN TO HIM BY JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA IN LUKE 23, A RICH MAN, A MEMBER OF THE SANHEDRIN, AND THEY COME TO BRING THE SPICES AND PERFUMES THEY PREPARED TO ANOINT **JESUS' BODY FOR BURIAL, FOR YOU SEE** THE JEWS DID NOT EMBALM BODIES, THEY USED SPICES TO PRESERVE THE BODIES OUT OF RESPECT.

**** AND THIS LABOR OF LOVE WAS NOT COMPLETED ON GOOD FRIDAY, FOR THEY HURRIEDLY TOOK DOWN THE BODY OF JESUS **BEFORE THE SABBATH SO THEY WOULDN'T** DEFILE THEIR SABBATH CUSTOMS.

3. SO IN ESSENCE THESE WOMEN COME TO THE TOMB OF JESUS TO FINISH PREPARING HIS BODY FOR BURIAL WHICH ACTIVELY STARTED ON FRIDAY BY WRAPPING HIS BODY WITH LINEN AND SPICES BY JOSEPH AND NICODEMUS ACCORDING TO JOHN 19:38-42, FOR THEY COULD NOT WORK ON THE SABBATH.

* NOW WITH THAT IN MIND, LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW AS THESE WOMEN ARRIVE THEY FIND THE STONE THAT HAD BEEN ROLLED IN FRONT OF THE TOMB TO PROTECT IT ROLLED AWAY ALONG WITH THE ROMAN SEAL THAT WAS BROKEN.

* AND GOD BLESS THESE DEAR WOMEN, THEY DID NOT COME TO THE TOMB EXPECTING THIS. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO MARK 16:3 THEY WERE CONCERNED HOW THEY AS WOMEN WOULD ROLL AWAY THIS HUGE STONE.

** BUT IT WAS ALREADY ROLLED AWAY, GOD HAD ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THIS AND MATTHEW 28:2-4 RECORDS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED AND AN ANGEL ROLLED THE STONE AWAY.

**** AND THE ROMAN GUARDS FAINTED WITH FEAR AS A RESULT OF THESE EVENTS AND WHEN THEY CAME TO, THEY FLED, AND AS THE WOMEN ARRIVE THERE ARE NO GUARDS AND NO ROMAN SEAL AND NO STONE BLOCKING THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOMB, WHICH LEADS US TO V. 3. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 3. NOW ON THE SCREEN YOU CAN SEE SOME PICTURES OF WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TOMB OF JESUS.

* AND AS THESE WONDERFUL WOMEN COME TO THE TOMB OF JESUS TO ANOINT HIS BODY, THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY, SO THEY ENTER THE TOMB AND THE BODY OF JESUS IS NOT THERE.

- WHICH REMINDS US WHY THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY, NOT TO LET JESUS OUT, BUT SO OTHERS COULD SEE THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD AS A TESTIMONY THAT HE WAS NOT THERE!!

** NOW THOSE DEAR WOMEN DID NOT EXPECT THIS ALTHOUGH JESUS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE WOULD SUFFER AND DIE AND RISE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD ON THE THIRD DAY.

*** BUT THAT TRUTH DID NOT CONNECT, THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY VERY EMOTIONAL ABOUT WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED SINCE FRIDAY AND PROBABLY COULD NOT GET THE PICTURE OUT OF THEIR MIND OF JESUS SUFFERING ON THE CROSS.

**** SO THE PROMISES OF CHRIST DID NOT CONNECT, TRUTH DID NOT CONNECT.

1. AND THEY OBVIOUSLY LOVED THEIR LORD VERY MUCH AND WERE COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, **THAT'S WHY THEY WERE THERE, BUT** THEY DID NOT STAND ON HIS PROMISES AND THE TRUTH REVEALED TO THEM.

* AND IN APPLICATION THAT IS A GREAT DANGER FOR US THAT ARE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST AND LOVE JESUS TODAY.

** WHEN SOMETHING VERY EMOTIONAL OR TRAGIC OR DIFFICULT HAPPENS, WE ALLOW OUR EMOTIONS TO TAKE OVER AND DO NOT APPLY **THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORDS AT THAT TIME** AND DISCONNECT.

*** BUT BELOVED, LET ME REMIND YOU THAT IT IS AT THOSE TIMES THAT WE NEED TO APPLY TRUTH AND STAND ON THE PROMISES OF GOD MORE THAN EVER.

**** THEN TRAGEDY CAN LEAD TO TRIUMPH, AS WE LOOK FOR THE UNSEEN INVISIBLE HAND OF GOD AND HIS ETERNAL PURPOSES BEHIND THAT VERY EMOTIONAL AND DIFFICULT TIME. THERE IS PEACE RATHER THAN PANIC.

2. AND IF IMMEDIATELY WE GO TO THE TRUTH **OF GOD'S WORD AND HIS PROMISES AND APPLY** THEM AND YIELD TO THE SPIRIT INSTEAD OF THE FLESH, PEACE WILL FLOOD OUR SOUL INSTEAD OF PANIC AND FEAR. WE WILL TRUST IN THE UNSEEN HAND OF GOD, FOR PSALM 46:1&2 SAYS AND PSALM 62:8 (QUOTE THEM).

* WELL OUR DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST HAD NOT APPLIED THE TRUTH, THEIR FAITH WAS WEAK.

** BUT WHAT THEY LACKED IN FAITH THEY COMPENSATED FOR IN LOVING COMPASSION AND WHAT THEY LACKED IN UNDERSTANDING THEY MADE UP FOR IN COURAGEOUS DEVOTION.

*** BUT THEIR INITIAL RESPONSE IS THEY ARE PERPLEXED, LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 4. NOW IT SAYS HERE IN V. 4 THAT OUR SISTERS WERE PERPLEXED AND THE KJV AND THE NKJV SAYS THEY WERE MUCH PERPLEXED OR GREATLY PERPLEXED.

* AND THIS PARTICULAR GREEK VERB LITERALLY MEANS TO BE ENTIRELY AT A LOSS, TO BE IN PERPLEXITY, AND THAT WAS THE STATE THESE WOMEN WERE IN. THEY WERE VERY PERPLEXED, BEWILDERED.

** AND SOMETHING HAPPENS AT THIS TIME OF GREAT PERPLEXITY, TWO MEN SUDDENLY WERE NEAR THEM IN DAZZLING CLOTHING.

*** NOW THIS DAZZLING CLOTHING WAS NOT A FASHION STATEMENT, THESE GUYS WERE NOT DRESSED FOR THE ACADEMY AWARDS, FLASHY THAT WAY.

1. FOR THESE TWO GUYS ARE TWO ANGELS AS THE OTHER GOSPEL ACCOUNTS RECORD AND AS V. 23 RECORDS HERE IN LUKE 24.

* FOR LUKE 24:23 SAYS LATER ON IN THE **CHAPTER WE'RE STUDYING: "AND DID NOT FIND HIS BODY, THEY (SPEAKING OF THE WOMEN) CAME, SAYING THAT THEY HAD ALSO SEEN A VISION OF ANGELS (THESE WOMEN IDENTIFIED THE MEN AS ANGELS) WHO SAID THAT HE WAS ALIVE."**

** NOW HERE IN V. 23 THE TWO EMMAUS DISCIPLES ARE TALKING TO THE RESURRECTED **CHRIST AND DON'T KNOW IT AT THIS TIME,** AND ARE TALKING TO JESUS ABOUT WHAT THE WOMEN TALKED ABOUT IN OUR TEXT, DOWN IN VERSE 22, REPORTED EARLIER IN THE DAY. SO THESE MEN IN DAZZLING CLOTHES ARE ANGELS.

*** NOW THE WORD TRANSLATED DAZZLING IN THE NAS AND ESV, SHINING IN THE KJV AND NKJV AND GLEAMING IN THE NIV LIT. MEANS TO LIGHTEN, IT TALKS ABOUT DAZZLING OBJECTS LIKE LIGHTENING CLOTHES THAT GLEAMED LIKE LIGHTENING.

****** AND IT'S INTERESTING A FORM OF THIS**
GREEK WORD IS USED IN LUKE 9:29 ABOUT
JESUS' CLOTHES AS HE IS TRANSFIGURED
BEFORE PETER, JAMES AND JOHN, THAT HIS
CLOTHES BECAME WHITE AND GLEAMING.

2. AND IN ACTS 1:10 WHERE JESUS ASCENDED
TO HIS FATHER IT SAYS, THERE WERE TWO MEN
IN WHITE CLOTHING THERE, WHICH AGAIN WERE
ANGELS.

* AND MANY TIMES IN SCRIPTURE WE SEE
ANGELS APPEAR IN THE FORM OF MEN AND ARE
CLOTHED IN WHITE BRILLIANT SHINING
CLOTHING.

**** AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE HERE**
IN LUKE 24:4. IN THE MIDST OF THESE
WOMEN'S PERPLEXITY, TWO ANGELS APPEAR
TO THEM AND THE RESPONSE OF THESE WOMEN
IS FOUND IN V. 5 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D
POINT TODAY, THE TERROR. LOOK AT V. 5
PLEASE.

II. THE TERROR, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW THESE WOMEN ARE TERRIFIED AS THEY SEE THESE TWO ANGELS, THEY WERE AFRAID, THROWN INTO A STATE OF FEAR, FRIGHTENED. AND IN LUKE 2 THE SHEPHERDS ARE TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD, THEN THE SHEPHERDS ARE TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD IN LUKE 2.

* AND WE SEE THAT RESPONSE ON OCCASION IN THE PRESENCE OF ANGELS IN SCRIPTURE AND I UNDERSTAND THAT, I MEAN, WHAT WOULD YOUR RESPONSE BE?

** HI GUYS, SIT DOWN AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE. **HEY, WHAT'S NEW? IT'S A NICE DAY ISN'T IT? OR HOW ABOUT THOSE CAVS? I DON'T THINK SO FOR MOST.**

*** BUT SERIOUSLY THESE WOMEN ARE TERRIFIED AS THEY SEE THESE ANGELS AND **THEIR RESPONSE IS THEY "BOWED THEIR FACES TO THE GROUND."**

**** AND THIS IS PROBABLY A RESPONSE OF RESPECT. AND THE ANGELS ASK THEM A QUESTION, **"WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING ONE AMONG THE DEAD?"**

1. AND THIS WILL BE THEIR FIRST INDICATION THAT JESUS AROSE FROM THE DEAD.

* FOR YOU SEE THE ANGELS WERE SAYING TO **THE WOMEN, JESUS IS ALIVE, HE'S ALIVE, WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING ONE WHERE DEAD PEOPLE ARE IN A TOMB? A TOMB IS NOT A PLACE FOR SOMEONE WHO IS ALIVE. WE DON'T GO TO A CEMETERY TO SEE SOMEONE WHO IS ALIVE!**

** SO I JUST LOVE THIS QUESTION, WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING ONE AMONG THE DEAD?

*** AND THEN THE ANGELS WILL GIVE THEM THE WONDERFUL TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED AND **REMINDE THEM OF JESUS' WORDS WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE TRUTH. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.**

III. THE TRUTH, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW HERE THE ANGELS MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR, THEY GIVE OUT THE TRUTH OF THESE EVENTS, **"JESUS IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN, HE'S ALIVE!"**

* AND THEN THEY REMIND THESE WOMEN OF SOMETHING JESUS SAID TO THEM WHEN HE WAS IN GALILEE.

** **AND IT'S ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT** THESE DEAR WOMEN FOLLOWED JESUS OUT OF GALILEE, IN LUKE 23:55.

*** SO THESE ANGELS ARE GIVING THESE WOMEN A HEAVENLY, HOLY REMINDER.

**** AND IN APPLICATION AS WE THINK ABOUT THIS, WE NEED TO REMEMBER CERTAIN THINGS AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, **DON'T WE?** AND NEVER FORGET THEM.

1. I MEAN THAT'S WHAT THE LORD'S SUPPER IS ALL ABOUT, A FORGET ME NOT FEAST OF THE SOUL TO REMEMBER JESUS' DEATH.

*** AND IT'S INTERESTING TO ME THAT THE WORD REMEMBER IS USED 168 TIMES IN MY BIBLE, AS AN ADMONITION NOT TO FORGET CERTAIN THINGS.**

**** SO THERE ARE CERTAIN TRUTHS FROM THE WORD OF GOD THAT WE CANNOT FORGET, THAT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR US TO LIVE WHAT I CALL THE RISEN LIFE, THE VICTORIOUS HOLY CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

***** AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, I FORGET THINGS, SO TO HELP ME REMEMBER TRUTHS THAT I SHOULD NOT FORGET. BY GOD'S GRACE, I'VE MEMORIZED A LOT OF SCRIPTURE AND I'M NOT BOASTING ABOUT THAT.**

****** HOWEVER, WHAT A HELP IN THE TIME OF NEED TO HAVE GOD'S TRUTH, GOD'S WORD AT MY FINGERTIPS AS I NEED IT.**

2. FOR TIMES OF TEMPTATION, FOR TIMES OF FEAR, **FOR TIMES WHEN I'M HURTING OR** GRIEVING, FOR TIMES WHEN I NEED TO COUNSEL OTHERS, FOR TEACHING AND PREACHING TIMES.

* AND I SAY HUMBLBY BY THE GRACE GOD GIVES **ME, I CAN'T THINK OF A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE** THAT HAS IMPACTED ME MORE THAN MEMORIZING THE WORD OF GOD.

** AND I WOULD CHALLENGE YOU, YOUNG AND OLD TO HIDE THE WORD OF GOD IN YOUR HEART, QUOTE PSALM 119:11&16. AND I WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP YOU.

*** NOW AS WE GO BACK TO OUR TEXT, THE ANGELS GIVE THESE WOMEN A HOLY REMINDER AND THAT HEAVENLY HOLY REMINDER IS FOUND IN V. 7. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 7. NOW THE SPECIFIC REMINDER IS **GIVEN HERE OF JESUS' WORDS SPOKEN TO** THEM IN GALILEE.

* AND CLEARLY HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES GOING BACK TO LUKE 9:22&44 AND LUKE 18:31-34 THAT HE WOULD BE DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF SINFUL MEN AND BE CRUCIFIED AND THE THIRD DAY RISE AGAIN.

** AND FRIENDS, THAT THIS HAPPENED IS NOT A SURPRISE OR A MISTAKE, BUT THE PLAN OF ALL-MIGHTY GOD FOREORDAINED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD AND PROPHESED BY CHRIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF SAVING PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN, HE WAS NOT A VICTIM, BUT A VICTOR!

*** AND JESUS PREDICTED THIS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND IT WAS PROPHESED IN THE O.T. IN TEXTS LIKE ISAIAH 53:5-12 (QUOTE THEM).

**** SO THAT JESUS WOULD DIE AND RISE AGAIN WAS NOT A TRAGEDY BUT A TRIUMPH OF THE GRACE OF GOD IN FULFILLMENT OF THE PLAN OF GOD AND PROPHECY.

1. AND THE ANGELS REMINDED THESE WOMEN OF THAT. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THEY REMEMBERED. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 8. NOW BELOVED AT THIS POINT OF TIME ON THE FIRST EASTER, AFTER A HEAVENLY REMINDER BY THESE ANGELS, THE WOMEN **REMEMBER JESUS' WORDS.**

* AND IT HAD TO BE SUCH A JOY AND COMFORT FOR THESE DEAR SISTERS IN THE MIDST OF THEIR PERPLEXITY AND TERROR.

** TRUTH CONNECTED. THEY REMEMBERED. THE WORDS OF JESUS WERE TRUE AND THEIR LORD WAS ALIVE.

*** AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN SUCH A COMFORT, AND HOPE KINDLING, AND EXCITING. THEY GO FROM AGONY TO ECSTASY, FROM DEPRESSION TO DELIGHT.

**** JESUS IS ALIVE. AND THAT TRUTH MOVES PEOPLE THAT KNOW JESUS TO TESTIFY OF THAT POWERFUL, WONDERFUL, PROFOUND TRUTH.

***** YOU CAN'T **HOLD THAT IN, YOU HAVE TO** TELL OTHER PEOPLE ABOUT IT, JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF GOD, GOD THE SON IS ALIVE.

***** AND THESE WOMEN GIVE TESTIMONY OF **THAT IN V. 9 WHERE WE'LL QUICKLY SEE OUR** FOURTH AND FINAL POINT TODAY, THE TESTIMONY. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

IV. THE TESTIMONY, (READ V. 9)

A. NOW THE TWO MARYS, JOANNA AND THESE OTHER WOMEN RETURN FROM THE EMPTY TOMB OF JESUS AND REPORT TO THE 11 DISCIPLES, THE APOSTLES, (FOR REMEMBER JUDAS THE 12TH IS DEAD), AND THEY REPORT THIS TO THE REST OF THE DISCIPLES AT JERUSALEM OF WHAT HAPPENED.

*** AND LISTEN, YOU CAN'T HOLD NEWS LIKE THIS**
IN. YOU HAVE TO TELL EVERYBODY YOU CAN.
"LISTEN GUYS, JESUS IS ALIVE! HE'S NOT DEAD,
HE HAS RISEN AS HE SAID."

** YOU WILL GIVE TESTIMONY TO THAT
DYNAMITE TRUTH AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS,
HE'S ALIVE AND I'M FORGIVEN, HEAVEN'S GATE
IS OPEN WIDE FOR THE PEOPLE JESUS WILL
RESCUE FROM THEIR SINS.

AND AS I WRAP UP OUR STUDY TODAY (1) LET
ME SAY THAT IS THE MESSAGE AND TESTIMONY
THAT WE MUST COMMUNICATE TO THOSE THE
LORD BRINGS ACROSS OUR PATH AND TO THE
NATIONS.

* JESUS CHRIST IS LORD AND HE IS ALIVE. THE
PASSION AND DEATH OF CHRIST WAS FOR A
PURPOSE, TO BECOME A SACRIFICE AND DIE TO
SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

** AND THAT MESSAGE WE COMMUNICATE OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST AND WHY HE SUFFERED AND DIED IS A PRIVILEGE, A MANDATE WE HAVE AS CHRISTIANS THAT WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE PASSIONATELY.

*** AND THAT MESSAGE AND PRINCIPLE IS COMMUNICATED CLEARLY AT THE END OF **LUKE'S RESURRECTION CHAPTER, FOR LOOK** DOWN TO VV. 47 AND 48 OF LUKE 24. AND WHAT DOES IT SAY? (QUOTE THEM).

**** AND BELOVED THE RISEN JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES THIS MANDATE AND MESSAGE. WE PROCLAIM REPENTANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS IN HIS NAME STARTING IN OUR OWN JERUSALEM - CANTON - STARK COUNTY, AND AMONG ALL NATIONS BECAUSE WE ARE HIS WITNESSES.

(2) WE SERVE A RISEN SAVIOR AND WE TELL **PEOPLE WHY HE DIED AND THAT HE'S ALIVE AS** LORD AND SAVIOR.

* AND I REMIND YOU AGAIN TODAY, THE TOMB OF JESUS WAS OPENED UP, NOT TO LET JESUS OUT, BUT TO LET THE WITNESSES IN AS EVIDENCE OF HIS RESURRECTION.

** SO THE EASTER MANDATE FOR THE CHURCH IS **"COME AND SEE, GO AND TELL!"**

*** AND AS WE SCATTER, AS WE LEAVE THIS PLACE, AS WE ARE EQUIPPED, WE LEAVE BY **GOD'S GRACE READY TO BE WITNESSES.**

**** MAY WE DO THAT BELOVED, FOR OUR SAVIOR IS ALIVE! QUOTE LUKE 24:47&48 AGAIN.

- FOLKS, THE TOMB IS EMPTY, SO **DON'T SEEK** THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD.

- AND FOR ANY OF YOU WHO ARE DEAD IN YOUR TRESPASSES AND SINS, THIS TRUTH IS YOUR ONLY HOPE. ROMANS 10:9&10&13, ROMANS 11:4, ROMANS 4:25

* BUT LAST OF ALL, LOOK DOWN TO VERSE 12
**OF LUKE 24 AND SEE PETER'S RESPONSE TO THE
EMPTY TOMB.**

(3) READ V. 12 - BUT PETER GOT UP AND RAN TO
THE TOMB; STOOPING AND LOOKING IN, HE SAW
THE LINEN WRAPPINGS ONLY; AND HE WENT
AWAY TO HIS HOME, MARVELING AT WHAT HAD
HAPPENED.

* NOW PETER GOT UP AND RAN TO THE TOMB
AFTER MARY MAGDALENE'S INITIAL REPORT.
AND HE STOOPS DOWN AND LOOKS IN AND SAW
THE LINEN WRAPPINGS, BUT NO JESUS. AND HE
GOES HOME, MARVELING.

** AND THE GREEK VERB TRANSLATED
MARVELING LIT. MEANS TO WONDER, TO BE
STRUCK WITH ADMIRATION AND
ASTONISHMENT, TO MARVEL IN THAT SENSE,
AND IT APPEARS IT IS USED HERE AS A VERB TO
DESCRIBE A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO A
WONDROUS EVENT.

*** AND I ASK YOU BELIEVER, FOR PETER OBVIOUSLY WAS A BELIEVER, WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE EMPTY TOMB?

**** IS THERE WONDER? IS THERE AMAZEMENT? IS THERE ASTONISHMENT? FOR THIS WAS AN EARTH SHAKING EVENT.

***** BELOVED, OUR SAVIOR IS ALIVE TODAY.
JESUS IS ALIVE AND I'M FORGIVEN, HEAVEN'S GATE IS OPEN WIDE.

(4) THERE IS HOPE TODAY! THERE IS FORGIVENESS TODAY! THERE IS ETERNAL LIFE TODAY! THERE IS PEACE TODAY BECAUSE JESUS IS ALIVE.

* BELIEVER, OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE, THIS TRUTH IS DYNAMITE. MAY WE BE IN WONDER, AMAZEMENT, AWE, WONDER AND EXCITEMENT. WE GO FROM AGONY TO ECSTASY. JESUS IS ALIVE!! **(LET'S PRAY)**