

# Easter 2021 Series

## “The Great Getting-up Morning!”

### Matthew 28:1-10

April 4, 2021 - Bob Hightchew

#### Introduction:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:12-22**
  - **Matthew 28:1-10**
  - **Matthew 27:52-53**
  - Think about that for a moment:
    - After being nailed to a Cross
    - Darkness for three hours (For the Sin of the world to be placed on Him.)
    - Yells, “It is Finished.” (The Debt was paid)
    - He gives up His Spirit
    - YET ... Many Holy People receive theirs back.
  - Not only do these people rise from the dead, after Jesus resurrects, they go into town and appear to many people.
  - I would say that was a big part of the beginning of the church in **Acts 2:36-41**.
  - You want to know the reason we find absolutely no critics about the resurrection of Jesus until after the second century ... it is because of all the convincing evidence that came with who Jesus was ... what He taught ... the miracles He performed ... **and what happened in Jerusalem in 33AD.**
  - Last Week we talked about the horrific things that Happened to Jesus on Good Friday ... do you remember that?
  - “Your life of sin and failure ... will walk you to the sadness of the Cross all day long ... and that happens on a Friday ... **BUT ... Jesus wants you to remember ... that Sunday is coming!**”
  - Well ... today is Sunday ... the Lord’s Day.
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#### 1. On the First Day of the Week:

- a. The Birth of Jesus was one of the most life changing events in the history of the world, for the believe and the non-believer.
- b. It is the only that split time.
  - i. B.C. – “Before Christ”
  - ii. A.D. – Anno Domini” – Latin for – “The Year of our Lord”
- c. For years now, Academia has been trying to change that with a passion.
  - i. B.C. to B.C.E – “Before the Common Era”
  - ii. A.D. – C.E. – “Common Era”
- d. Why mention this?
  - i. Since Jesus stepped into our world ... the world has been trying to rid the world of Jesus.
- e. I want to talk about a major shift in the time of worship, which took place at the Resurrection.
  - i. The Resurrection shifted worship from the Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday (The First Day of the Week).
- f. **Matthew 28:1-4**
- g. Who was Joseph of Arimathea?
  - i. Good man and upright.

- ii. Member of the Jewish Ruling Council
  - iii. Did not agree with plot against Jesus.
  - iv. One who believed Jesus was special.
  - h. John 3:1-2**
  - i. Luke 23:50-51**
  - j. Luke 23:55**
  - k. This brings us back to our text this morning.
  - l. Matthew 28:2**
  - m. The women were courageous for what they did – Consider these things:
    - i. They had to face the Roman guards.
    - ii. How would they move the stone?
    - iii. How would they get through this?
  - n. But if they weren't afraid already ... The angel appears!
  - o. His clothes were white as snow:
    - i. Isaiah 1:18**
    - ii. Acts 1:10-11**
2. The Angel said, "Do not be afraid."
- a. The ladies' fear was twofold:
    - i. First – The presence of the Angel
    - ii. Where was Jesus?
  - b. Notice the Roman Soldiers were also afraid – **Matthew 25:5**
  - c. The Angel addressed five things:
    - i. Do not be afraid! – **Luke 1:13 ... Luke 1:30 ... Luke 2:10 ... Matthew 28:5-6**
    - ii. He addressed their fear.
    - iii. He reminds them Jesus told them this would happen.
    - iv. He tells them where the disciples can find Him.
  - d. The Angel did what he was told to do. When the angel said ... "Do NOT be afraid" ... he wasn't saying rid yourself of FEAR ... **what was being said** ... was in spite of your fear ... you have a job to do ... and you need to DO IT!
3. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid."
- a. The main reason that people do not share their faith ... is fear of what people will think of them.
  - b. Matthew 28:8-10**
  - c. The greatest opportunity we have to encounter Jesus is when we are about the work of the Kingdom.
  - d. It all starts with getting past our fear of the world.
  - e. There are many who claimed to be Christian and yet, compromised the TRUTH ... even saying scripture is flawed.
  - f. When did these false teachings come out ... centuries after the resurrection.
  - g. REMEMBER ... no critic in the first century denied the what took place:
    - i. Not one person said we have the body!
    - ii. Not one said, "They are liars."
  - h. WHY ... because the evidence was too overwhelming and there were too many witnesses.
  - i. Many attend churches out of obligation on Easter.
  - j. So, here is the gospel in Two Minutes.
  - k. There is a Great Getting-Up Morning for all of us coming – will you be ready? you to know ... that Sunday is coming!

