

# HOW WILL YOU RESPOND TO JESUS?

## Resurrection Sunday

John 20:1-19

April 12, 2020

- Apart from the cross, the world responds to Jesus as a great teacher, example and prophet.

## THREE RESPONSES TO THE CRUCIFIED JESUS:

### 1. The response of the women was to stay busy and do their duty.

*Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" – Mark 16:1-3 NLT*

- This response of needing to do more is often driven by guilt.
- Doing good deeds never makes us right with God.
- A sense of duty robs us of the joy of a love relationship with Jesus.

### 2. The response of the apostles was curiosity, confusion and fear.

*The women left the tomb and went to the eleven apostles and the other followers. They told them everything that had happened at the tomb... But the apostles did not believe what they said. It sounded like nonsense. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb to see. He looked in, but he saw only the cloth that Jesus' body had been wrapped in. It was just lying there. Peter went away to be alone, wondering what had happened. – Luke 24:9, 11-12 ERV*

*That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. – John 20:19 NLT*

- The apostles were in self-protection mode and thinking in terms of the natural.
- Leaving God's power out of any difficult situation leads to confusion and fear.

### 3. The response of Thomas was skepticism and disbelief.

*They told him, "We saw the Lord." Thomas said, "That's hard to believe. I will have to see the nail holes in his hands, put my fingers where the nails were, and put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe it." – John 20:25 ERV*

- Thomas' attitude was: "I need proof."

- Disbelief is often rooted either in past trauma or a tendency to be overly analytical.

### **A VERY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO THE RESURRECTED JESUS:**

- After encountering the resurrected Jesus, the response was faith, joy and boldness!

*The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were frightened but also filled with great joy...*  
– Matt. 28:8 NLT

*Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he had said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. –  
John 20:19-20 NIV*

*Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” – John 20:28*

*After the Lord Jesus had said these things...the disciples left and preached everywhere. The Lord was with them, and the miracles they worked proved that their message was true. –  
Mark 16:19-20 CEV*

- Going to church or doing good is no substitute for personally knowing Jesus.
- The simplest path to knowing Jesus personally is to trust Him and join in His work.

*Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” – John 20:29*