

“MISSIONS: THE MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST”
MATTHEW 28:1-20

INTRO: April is MISSIONS MONTH FOR US here at FBC and it is also the month in which EASTER FALLS this year which is very appropriate. I say that because the **RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE VERY HEART OF THE MESSAGE OF MISSIONS**. Because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and is alive forevermore, all who trust Him as their personal SAVIOR will experience the forgiveness of sins and everlasting life with HIM in Heaven, and as Christians we have the **GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE** to proclaim the reality of CHRIST'S RESURRECTION to the WHOLE WORLD. Today as we are focusing on the **RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD**, let us also look at the **MISSIONAL ASPECT OF THAT REALITY** and recognize that the very center thrust of missions is that **JESUS CHRIST IS NO LONGER IN THE GRAVE, BUT IS ALIVE AND OFFERS NEW AND ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIS NAME**.

I. THE MESSAGE OF MISSIONS IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

THE MESSAGE THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE WORLD

A. To those who visited the empty tomb early that morning – **“HE IS NOT HERE – HE IS RISEN.”**

B. To those of us who are here today **“GO YE THEREFORE AND TEACH ALL NATIONS.”**

NOTE: The message that makes CHRISTIAN MISSIONS unique is that Jesus Christ is alive and gives the forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who call upon His name.

II. THE MOTIVATION FOR MISSIONS IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

“COME AND SEE” – Verse 6

NOTE: When the early visitors to Christ's tomb were invited by the angel to look into the tomb, what **THEY DID NOT SEE** changes their lives.

-THE EMPTY TOMB is the **DISTINGUISHABLE MARK OF CHRISTIANITY** in that we do not have a dead religious leader, but we have a **RISEN AND A LIVING SAVIOR**.

-THE EMPTY TOMB is a **SIGNIFICANT, HISTORICAL AND MISSIONAL FACT** to consider:

- Significant - It made the reality of the **FORGIVENESS OF SIN** and the **ASSURANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE** to all who believe a fact.
- Historical - There are **MANY HISTORICAL PROOFS** of the resurrection of Jesus Christ based on Acts 1:8
- Missional - The authenticity of the **EMPTY TOMB** creates an **OBLIGATION** for us to proclaim its **GLORIOUS MESSAGE** around the world.

-THE EMPTY TOMB is a challenge for **ALL OF THE WORLD** to consider the **VALIDITY OF JESUS CHRIST** as the **ONE AND ONLY TRUE SAVIOR FOR MANKIND**.

-THE EMPTY TOMB changed the lives of the early disciples from being **fearful and meek to being BOLD AND POWERFUL**. Cp. Mark 15:50,66-71 to Acts 4:5ff.

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST IS THE MOTIVATION OF MISSIONS BECAUSE:

A. It is the Fulfillment of Prophecy

1. In the Old Testament

- a. Psalm 16:9,10
- b. Isaiah 53:9-11

2. In the New Testament

- a. Matthew 16:21
- b. Mark 9:30-32

B. It is the Foundation of our Faith.

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-22

C. It is the Fact of New Life

- 1. John 10:10
- 2. Colossians 3:4

III. THE MANDATE OF MISSIONS IS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

“GO AND TELL” -Verse 7

NOTE: The word **“QUICKLY”** means **“WITHOUT DELAY.”**

A. This mandate was given to those who visited the empty tomb, and they did so then, as well as for the rest of their recorded lives.

B. This mandate is given to us today as well so to remind others that Jesus Christ is the **ONLY TRUE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.**

1. This mandate is for all believers in Christ – Luke 24:47
2. This mandate is the message of hope to the world – 1 Corinthians 15:20
3. This mandate is the motive for missions – Acts 26:23

LESSON AND APPLICATION

QUESTION: HOW CONVINCED ARE YOU THAT JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE GRAVE?

QUESTION: ARE YOU CONVINCED ENOUGH TO:

- SUFFER FOR HIM AS THE DID THE EARLY DISCIPLES?
- TO DO EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS WORK FOR HIM AS DID THE EARLY DISCIPLES WITHOUT THE THREAT OF PERSECUTION?

THE MORE WE ARE PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, THE MORE JOY WE WILL HAVE, THE MORE COMMITTED WE WILL BE TO LIVING A BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE AND THE MORE WE WILL BE COMMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF MISSIONS.