



CHURCH GROUP DEVOS



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

We are so glad you are here with us at Deep Impact this week. Our theme this summer is "Come and See."

He is not here. For he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
- **Matthew 28:6 (CSB)**

We will be working through the first 10 verses of this chapter during our devotions this week to experience the same joy that the women found at His empty tomb. Come on, y'all, see what our great God has done!

Student Ministry Leaders, please feel free to tailor this to your preference, or refrain from using this at all. We definitely want to highlight and reflect on what God has done during the day, the message the speaker has just brought forth, and what your students may be working through in scripture right now. These things take precedence, so the section of the chapter is merely supplemental material for a short devotional time.

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OPENING NIGHT (DEVO 1)

- Open in prayer, and maybe even encourage a student to step out and pray for what God has been doing all day, and for what He will be doing throughout the week.
- If you've been on site today, feel free to start off by giving students an opportunity to talk about experiences that they had with each other or the individuals they were serving.
- If not, you can discuss something of your own choosing OR talk about the previous message from the speaker OR use this quick little devo
 - We will be focusing on Matthew 28:1-2 tonight. Have someone read these verses out loud to the group

Okay, so this really sets the scene for the rest of the story. We see the women starting a new week, and so are we. They've gotten up early, and gone to visit Jesus' tomb. Jesus had just died a few days earlier, on Good Friday.

- Why do you think they went to visit His tomb at this point? What do you think they were looking for/expecting to find? (Check out Matthew 20:19 for a hint).
 - In the verse provided above, we see that Jesus had told the twelve disciples that he would be crucified, and raised up on the third day. But in Matthew 27:63, we see that even people like the Chief priests and Pharisees knew about Christ's claims.
- The thought of someone rising from the dead would seem outlandish, personally. But the women still went. What about Jesus' character made the women go and see?
 - Answer: Christ is faithful! (2 Timothy 2:13). Christ is the Word made flesh, and He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). We know that God's word is always fulfilled according to the purpose He has; He does not speak empty words (Isaiah 55:11).

Now we're barely in verse 2, and we already see God shaking things up, literally. But that's just how He rolls. Also, literally. (Sorry, I had to.)

Anyways.

A massive earthquake had occurred, and one of His angels descends to sit on Jesus' tomb after rolling away the stone.

- What does the rolling away of the stone signify?
 - Resurrection of Christ first, and then those who are found in Him. Christ is the first fruits among those who will be resurrected from the dead. (1st Corinthians 15:20, 23-24). We, who are in Christ, will also be raised at His return by the power of His victory over sin and death.

- Also, quick reminder that Christ was actually raised from the death in His physical body! I often think about this as a metaphor (and maybe you do, too) for our spiritual resurrection from being dead in transgressions. This happens when He has taken our stony hearts, and given us hearts of flesh (Ezekiel 36:25-27). There unfortunately are some heresies stating that there was no resurrection (Check out 1 Corinthians 15:12-20). However, we will also experience a resurrection at Christ's return.

Closing question: What do we see about God in this passage? How does He bring His plan to fulfillment, even down to the details of when things are to occur or bringing supernatural things to pass?

Closing Prayer

DEVO 2

- Have someone open in prayer for what God has been doing throughout the day, for the message that has just been preached and received, for the fellowship that will be enjoyed, etc.
- Take time to talk about the day on site. *How has God provided opportunities to share the Gospel today?*
- Take some time to either reflect on the message that was just shared OR a devotion of your own choosing OR the following devo
 - We will be focusing on **Matthew 28:3-4** tonight. Have someone read these verses out loud to the group

To recap from last night, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had gone to Jesus' tomb. An earthquake had occurred, and an angel descended to sit at the top of the entrance to Jesus' tomb after rolling the stone away.

In verse three, the angel's appearance is described like "lightning" and his garments "as white as snow".

- What do you think is the purpose of this description in scripture?
- If being "white as snow" is required of angels in heaven, shouldn't we expect God to have a similar standard of us in order to dwell in His presence? How do we become "white as snow"?
 - Example Answers: being cleansed and purified by the blood of Christ, by way of sanctification, etc.

In verse 4, we see that the guards trembled and shook because they were afraid. Now mind you, this isn't even God, but an angel sent by Him. Even then, they recognized the power the angel had, and the power of the one by whom he was sent.

- How did they miss Jesus (or not accept Him for who He was), who was God, and was also sent by God? *Hint* → Fulfillment of prophecy (Isaiah 6:9-10), purpose of parables (Mark 4:12).
- Does the guards' shaking/trembling remind you of any parallels in scripture? An example may be James 2:19. An example that seems similar to that of the interaction between the angel and the women (spoiler alert, sorry) could be that of the shepherds keeping their flocks at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:8-20)

Concluding Questions: What do we learn about God in these verses? What do we learn about the creatures that are made to serve and dwell with Him? What do we learn about the relationship that all people have with God, whether they are living in rebellion against or in communion with Him?

Closing Prayer

DEVO 4

- Have someone open in prayer briefly
- Spend some time talking about what God has been doing throughout the day. How has He softened hearts so that people may be open to talking about the Gospel? Do you make an effort to pray before your time on site, whether individually or collectively, for the hearts of the people who will hear the word?
- Take some time to either reflect on the message that was just shared OR a topic of your choosing OR the following devo
 - We will be focusing on Matthew 28:5-6 tonight. Have someone read these verses out loud to the group.

Happy hump day y'all, we are halfway through the week! We also get to dig into our theme verse, vs 6, tonight. In earlier verses, we've seen an earthquake and the descending of an angel who looked like lightning. This was a cause for great fear for the guards at the entrance, and understandably so. But in verse 5, the angel's first words to the women were "Do not be afraid". The angel tells the women that he has said this because he knows that they "seek Jesus who was crucified" (wording of verse 5 in the ESV).

- In what other places in scripture do we see a similar message of "Do not be afraid"? Who were these messages addressed to? Is there a common theme or similarities between the different recipients of this message of "do not be afraid"?
 - Examples include:
 - Joseph, Jesus' father, and a vision- an angel tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20)
 - Mary encounters Gabriel, the angel who tells her that she has found favor with God and will give birth to the son of the Most High (Luke 1:30-33)

And now for the moment we've all been waiting for... VERSE 6!!! The angel gives them the good news that Jesus is no longer in the grave, but has risen, just as He said he would. The angel tells them to come and see where He was lying.

- What do we see about Jesus, that was also hinted at in verse 1 of the chapter on the first night?
 - He keeps His word! He rose on the third day, which is what He had told His disciples.
- Why is it good news that Jesus rose from the grave?
 - He conquered death! Because of Adam and the original sin, all humans will die, and deserve the "second death" as eternal punishment for sin is sometimes referred to in eschatology, but thanks to Christ's atonement for our sins and

bearing the wrath that we deserve for them, we can be made alive, too. (1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

- Deeper Digging: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, 54-58.

Closing questions: What do we see about God and His character in this passage? How has He given us hope and a way to be restored to Him?

Closing Prayer

DEVO 4

- Have someone open in a word of prayer
- Take some time to talk about what God has been doing on site today, and possibly how you've seen different points/events throughout the week connect up to this point.
- Take some time to either reflect on the message that was just shared OR a topic of your choosing OR the following devo
 - We will be focusing on Matthew 28:7-8 tonight. Have someone read these verses out loud to the group.

We are getting suuuper close to seeing Jesus! At the very beginning of verse 7, the angel tells the women to "Go quickly" to tell the disciples of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

- Why do you think the angel gave this command to go quickly? Whenever you receive good news, are you slow or quick to share it with people you love?
- In what other parts of the bible do we sense urgency or receive time sensitive commands?
 - In Revelation 22:7-13, Jesus tells us He is coming quickly.
 - In Ephesians 5:15-17, Paul tells us to be careful to walk as those who are wise and make the most of our time since the days are evil. We must understand God's will to do this. In verse 16, we see the command of making the most of our time. We do this by living according to God's will, rather than the worldly trends of this day and age.
 - In Psalm 119:60, the psalmist talks about being quick to obey God's commands. This is a very long Psalm, but is incredibly rich and emphasizes the importance of God's word. When we know God's word and treasure it in our hearts (vs 11), we can recall it quickly to obey Him, rather than following our own desires.
 - This one is more about being ready, since we do not know the day or hour of Christ's return, but The Parable of the Ten Virgins- Matthew 25:1-13
- If we love those around us, shouldn't we be quick to share the best and most important news ever- that Christ died for their sins and rose victoriously that they may be free from sin?

The angel then tells them that Jesus is already headed to Galilee and they will see Him there.

- Spoiler alert: This may be a reason for the "great joy" the women have in verse 8. How wonderful would that news be? To hear that you would soon see a dear friend who had died and been buried just a few days before, and infinitely more wonderful seeing as He was their (and our) savior after all. This message is one of many examples of the way that God gives us hope and a reason to put our faith in Him.

In verse 8, what do the women do?

Yep, you guessed it. They did exactly what the angel commanded! They:

- Left the tomb quickly
- Ran to report what they had heard to the disciples

The verse says the women were filled with fear and great joy.

- In several verses in Proverbs, Solomon talks about the fear of the Lord, which leads to wisdom and life. To fear God is to understand who He truly is in regards to His character, sovereignty, and omnipotence. God is capable of doing whatever He wills. In His justice, He must hate sin and He will avenge it (Hebrews 10:26-31). We must understand that we are weak sinners, and He should punish us eternally. However, because of Jesus' atonement for our sins by dying in our place, we do not have to be afraid of the second death. He became sin, so that we might be presented as righteous to the Father (2 Corinthians 5:21). However, we should still obey God and fear Him because He is worthy of our reverence.
- In Psalm 16:11, David says of God "In Your presence is fullness of joy." The Lord is our source of joy. It is in Him that we find gladness. Joy is a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:16) that should be present in us regardless of circumstances, whether we are receiving good news like the women or facing trials (James 1:2).

Closing Prayer

DEVO 5

- Have someone open in a word of prayer
- Take some time to reflect on your last day on site and the entire week. Have you seen God answer any prayers? How has he softened hearts and opened eyes and ears?
- Take some time to either reflect on the message that was just shared OR a topic of your choosing OR the following devo
 - We will be focusing on Matthew 28:9-10 tonight. Have someone read these verses out loud to the group.

Alrighty y'all, it's our last night. We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing you share the Gospel through missions and growing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus alongside of you this week. I hope that you have enjoyed working through this passage, and I pray it will be fruitful for each of you. Tonight's verses are so joyful, as we have finally seen and heard from Jesus, the resurrected King!

In verse 9, we see that while the women are on their way to tell the disciples what they've seen and heard, Jesus meets them! They went and fell at His feet in worship.

I love that their first response is worship. Jesus has really modeled what God (in all three persons, whether it be Him praising the Father, us praising Him, or us obeying and submitting to The Spirit) is worthy of- our praise and our worship in submission. Peep Matthew 6:9. In this verse, Jesus is telling those listening to His sermon to "pray in this way". He then proceeds with a model prayer.

- What does Jesus say first to God the Father in His prayer?
 - He says "Hallowed be Your name". Jesus, who was also fully God, humbly praised the name of His Father by honoring it as holy (CSB translation).

In verse 10, Jesus has a very similar message to that as the angel did in the previous verses.

- What are the things that Jesus tells the women that they also heard from the angel?
 - "Do not be afraid"
 - To take a message to the disciples
 - That He will be in Galilee
- What does Jesus call the disciples in this verse?
 - "My brothers" → look back to a couple verses from Devo 1. In 1 Corinthians 15, verses 20 and 23 tell us that He is the first fruits. In Colossians 1:18, He is referred to as the firstborn among the dead. We are no longer children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3), but have been adopted by God as sons through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:5) and are fellow heirs with Him (Jesus) if we suffer as He did (Romans 8:16-17). We are God's family.

- If we think about the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), I think it's safe to say that being treated as the lowest member, or merely as a "hired hand", in the family of God is infinitely more gracious than we deserve and all we could hope to ask for (Think about verses 17-24 of Luke 15). But God the Father has called us His children. Jesus has first place (Colossians 1:18) as His only begotten son and in His perfect obedience, but we still get to be His children, too. What a love.

Closing question: As we go home, what can we apply from this passage to our lives? How can we seek to worship God and obey Him? What do you plan to do to stay on mission and share the Good news of His resurrection with others?

Closing Prayer

Thank you for spending your week with us! We love you and are praying for you as you return to your mission field at home! We look forward to seeing you again, and we are forever thankful for the gospel that unites us in Christ Jesus. To him be all glory and honor and power.

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