

Only The Dead Stay In Tombs (John 20:1-10)

Pastor Deric Thomas

(1) Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." (3) So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. (4) Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. (5) And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, (7) and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. (8) Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; (9) for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. (10) Then the disciples went back to their homes. [John 20:1-10 ESV]

Practical Application

1. For the Christian, there is always a miracle after your burial.
2. Only the dead stay in tombs. Through Jesus Christ we can live.
3. Set aside the 1st day of each week (Sunday/The Lord's Day) as a special day of personal and corporate worship to show that God has first place in your life.
4. Let your devotion be like that of Mary Magdalene. Think about how much you have been loved and forgiven, and let your love for Jesus grow more and more each day.
5. Seek God early, throughout the day, and at night. Live a life fully devoted to Christ.
6. Don't let the dark seasons of life keep you from living fully for Jesus. He can be glorified in your highest highs and your lowest lows. Let His light in you shine no matter your circumstances or situation.
7. Be looking for God to reveal His will for your life each day.
8. Even when you can't see Christ He is working. When you can't feel Him He is working. He never stops working.
9. Do you see the evidence of God's love, power, and wisdom at work all around you each day? Be attentive.
10. Live your life with purpose, intentionality, passion, zeal, and with holy urgency.
11. Share your story of grace, salvation, and forgiveness with everyone who will listen.
12. Beware of your tendency to make interpretive connections that are not fully accurate, precise, and true.
13. Christian, rest in your position as a disciple whom Jesus loves.
14. Don't let your lack of knowledge (ignorance), wisdom, and understanding lead you to a life of unbelief and paralyzation. Through Christ you can live the life He has given you to the fullest.
15. Run toward Jesus and toward His truth even if you still have unanswered questions. You do not have to know everything to do God's will and glorify His great name.
16. Jesus always works with deliberate, sovereign, intentional, focused, and loving purpose in all He does. You can trust Him all day every day, both now and forever.
17. See Jesus Christ for who He is and for what He has done, and believe. Seeing is believing. You can trust the witness and testimony of God's chosen Apostles like John that are found in the Word of God (The Bible).
18. Ask God to open the eyes of your heart that you might see Him.
19. Ask God to give you understanding of His heart, His ways, and His Word.
20. Ask God to give you greater understanding of the resurrection of Jesus so that you might live in light of it.
21. Christian, because of Jesus you have been made alive and do not have to live in darkness anymore. You do not have to live in a tomb. Through Jesus you can live an abundant life. Live! Rise up! Walk in the light! Jesus is still rolling stones!

Announcements

1. **Children's AWANA Program and Adult Small Group Bible Study** are on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30. Remember we are now serving dinner to kids on Wednesday nights starting at 6.
2. Check out all the **Small Groups** that meet on Sunday's and throughout the week. We have many to choose from, with more starting in the weeks to come.
3. **Ministry Opportunity upcoming!** HMC will be cooking and serving a pre-game meal to the Calera High School Football Team on **Friday September 8, 2023**. This is a great opportunity to show the young men and coaching staff of Calera High School Football, the love of God's church for our community. Pastor Deric will also be there to share and pray over the team. If you have questions, please contact Paul Hayes or any of the HMC Deacons.
4. **VOLUNTEER'S NEEDED:** Hospitality Team needs people to serve one Sunday a month on a rotation for next Quarter. Servants are needed to be doorway greeters to hand out sermon notes and for coffee bar set-up and clean up each week. Please consider volunteering to serve on this team. Contact Lanie at eleannamarieb@gmail.com or text (205) 915-4885 for more information and to sign up.