

Easter 2026- Empty & Full

Matthew 28:1-8

Opener: What have you been thinking about from the message on Sunday?

Read Matthew 28:1-8

1. The angel delivered the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead, including this line, “Just as he said.” The women and his own disciples did not seem to have any expectation that he might have risen, even though he told them that it would happen. Why do you think that was?
2. What has Jesus said or promised that you find yourself having a hard time believing and expecting him to fulfill? What makes faith hard at times?
3. The women hurried away from the tomb, “afraid yet filled with joy.” Why might they have been afraid? What implications from Jesus’ resurrection give good reason to be filled with joy?
4. Does the resurrection still stir in you a joy? How does joy over the resurrection look for a Christian who has celebrated many Easters? How do Christians keep the joy over Jesus’ death and resurrection for them fresh and full in their lives?
5. The first charge the women receive once learning that Jesus was alive is to go and tell the disciples. Is the charge to “go and tell” something everyone who receives the good news of Jesus and believes should see as a charge for them as well? If so, who should you tell?

Read John 15:9-11

6. What do we learn about being full of joy from what Jesus teaches his disciples?

Read 1 John 1:1-4

7. What do we learn about being full of joy from what John writes to open his letter?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-13

8. What do we learn about being full of joy from what Peter writes?

Closing: What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to what you have considered today in God’s Word?