

A STONE SPEAKS

Matthew 28:1-10

April 12, 2009 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. Early Monday morning a 6.3 earthquake hit a region 70 miles north of Rome (See Article Attached).
- B. In Matthew 28:1-10 we learn of another earthquake: READ.
 - 1. What was the first thing these women saw when they came to Jesus' tomb. They saw that the stone had been rolled away.
 - 2. What did it mean to them? What does it mean to us today?
 - 3. The stone is a powerful message about Easter. What does it say to us?

I. ONE THING THE STONE SAYS IS THAT DEATH COMES TO US ALL.

- A. Death came to Jesus and one day it will also come to us.
Hebrews 9:27 man is destined to die.....”
- B. Death is certainly no respecter of persons. Everyone dies.
 - 1. Poor people die.
 - 2. Rich people die.
 - 3. Educated people die.
 - 4. Uneducated people die.
 - 5. Old people die.
 - 6. Young people die.
- C. The stone rolled over the mouth of Jesus' tomb says that Jesus died a real death.
 - 1. He didn't faint on the cross as some try to suggest.
 - 2. He really died. That's why he was pierced with the Roman spear, to make certain he was dead.
 - 3. Why did Jesus die on the cross? Because God loves us.
Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

II. ANOTHER THING THE STONE SAYS IS THAT JESUS CONQUERED DEATH.

- A. The stone that had been placed over the door of Jesus' tomb had been rolled away.
- B. Why was the stone rolled away?
 - 1. Not to let Jesus out of the tomb. He didn't need that. Remember he later appeared to his disciples who were in a room with the door closed.
 - 2. The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out but to let others in.
 - a. The women, and later Peter and John, went inside the tomb to verify that it was empty.
 - b. The empty tomb is powerful proof of Jesus' resurrection.
 - c. Some try to say these women just went to the wrong tomb.
 - d. If that was true don't you think the Jewish religious leaders would have found the right tomb and displayed Jesus' decaying body to prove he wasn't alive again as everyone was saying?
 - 3. The stone was rolled away as proof that Jesus conquered death.
Acts 2:24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

III. STILL ANOTHER THING THE STONE SAYS IS WE HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

A. We have hope of being forgiven.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

B. We also have hope of salvation.

Romans 10:9 if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

C. Still further, we have hope for the future.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

CONCLUSION

A. Listen to the stone speaking today.

1. It says we all will die someday, just as Jesus died.

2. It says Jesus conquered death when he was resurrected from the dead.

3. It says we have hope for the future to be forgiven and saved.

B. Are you listening to the stone today?