

What Does the Resurrection Mean? | Matthew 27:55–28:15

The Passion of the Christ

Pastor Woody Woodward concluded our *Passion of the Christ* series on Easter Sunday by answering one of the most important questions in all of history: What does the resurrection of Jesus mean? Rather than proving its historicity, Pastor Woody assumed the truth of the resurrection and focused on its personal, spiritual, and eternal implications. Drawing parallels to a foggy, misread message at Waterloo, the sermon reminded us that the cross looked like defeat—until the full message was revealed. Jesus defeated the enemy.

Summary

The resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical claim—it is a transforming truth. Pastor Woody walked us through the scene at the empty tomb, where the message changed from “Jesus defeated” to “Jesus defeated the enemy.” The angel’s words—“He is not here; He has risen”—are central to the Christian faith. But what does the resurrection mean for us today?

It means that sin has been paid for, death has been conquered, and the enemy has been disarmed. It means we can live without fear, with hope, and with purpose. It means our faith is not in vain. Through Scripture and personal application, the sermon invited us to live as resurrection people—anchored in Christ’s victory and sent with His mission.

Key Takeaways

- The resurrection transforms defeat into victory—Jesus didn’t just survive death; He conquered it.
- “He is risen” is not a metaphor—it’s the foundation of Christian hope and life.
- Because Jesus is alive, we can face life’s trials, pain, and death with confidence.
- The resurrection affirms that Jesus is who He said He is: the Son of God and the Savior of the world.
- Our lives are now caught up in resurrection purpose—we’re sent to bear witness, just like the women at the tomb.
- Faith in the risen Christ changes everything—from how we suffer to how we hope to how we live each day.

Discussing and Applying the Sermon

- What does the resurrection mean to you personally? How has it shaped your life?
 - Why is it important to move beyond believing the resurrection happened to living as if it matters?
 - In what areas of your life do you still feel like the message is “Jesus defeated”? How might God be rewriting that story?
 - What can you learn from the faithfulness and courage of the women who went to the tomb?
 - How does the resurrection empower you to share your faith, serve others, or overcome fear?
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About *The Passion of the Christ*

This series explores the final hours of Jesus' life leading up to the resurrection. Each message focuses on a different moment in the Passion narrative, revealing the depth of Christ's love, the gravity of our sin, and the invitation to follow Him as Savior and King.