

PULPIT COMPANION

A
**RESURRECTION
RESET**

JOHN 20:1-18

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09:45 AM

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On this Easter morning, we're reminded of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection.

The sermon takes us through the story of Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John at the empty tomb, emphasizing how we can make the resurrection a personal reality in our lives. We're encouraged to keep moving forward even in darkness, believing without seeing, and listening for God's voice calling our name.

The central message is that Jesus' resurrection isn't just a historical event, but a present reality that can reset and revitalize our faith. We're challenged to step out of our own 'tombs' - whether they're depression, addiction, or past mistakes - and embrace the new life Christ offers. This message resonates deeply with our daily struggles and reminds us that no matter what we're facing, we can rise up because He rose first.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Psalm 30:5 - "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."
- Matthew 16:18 - "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."
- Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
- John 10:27 - "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."
- John 20:1-18 - The entire passage about Jesus' resurrection and appearance to Mary Magdalene





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Embracing God's Love in the Darkness

Reading: John 20:1-10

Devotional: Just as Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark, we often find ourselves moving through seasons of darkness in our lives. Yet, even in these moments, God's love is present and active. The empty tomb reminds us that God's power transcends our circumstances.

Today, reflect on areas of your life that feel shrouded in darkness. How might God be working behind the scenes, preparing to reveal His light? Remember, just as the stone was rolled away before Mary arrived, God is already at work in your situation. Trust in His timing and His love, even when you can't see the outcome.

Day 2: Stepping Out in Faith

Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Devotional: Peter's bold step out of the boat onto the stormy sea reflects the kind of faith we're called to embrace. Like Peter, we're invited to "go all the way in" with our faith, not just observing from a distance but fully engaging with God's call on our lives.

Consider areas where you might be holding back in your faith journey. What would it look like to step out of your comfort zone and trust God more fully? Remember, even when we falter like Peter did, Jesus is there to catch us. Today, take a step of faith in an area where you've been hesitant, trusting that God will support you.





Day 3: The Power of Christ's Resurrection

Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Devotional: The resurrection of Jesus is not just a historical event, but a present reality that transforms our lives. As Paul writes, we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, empowering us to live new lives.

Reflect on what it means to be "dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." How does this truth change the way you view your struggles and challenges? Today, identify one area of your life where you need resurrection power. Pray for God to bring new life and transformation to this area, trusting in the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

Day 4: Hope in the Midst of Suffering

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: Our earthly struggles, like jars of clay, may seem fragile and easily broken. Yet, it's through these very weaknesses that God's power is most clearly displayed. Paul reminds us that our present sufferings are achieving an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Consider a current difficulty you're facing. How might God be using this situation to reveal His strength and refine your character? Today, choose to focus on the unseen eternal realities rather than your visible circumstances, finding hope in God's greater purpose.

Day 5: Hearing God's Voice in Every Season

Reading: John 10:1-18

Devotional: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name and calls us personally. Like Mary at the tomb, we too can experience moments of profound connection when we hear God speak our name.

In the midst of life's noise and distractions, how can you create space to better hear God's voice? Reflect on times when you've clearly sensed God speaking to you. What characterized those moments? Today, practice intentional listening during your prayer time. Be still, quiet your thoughts, and attune your heart to God's gentle whisper, trusting that He desires to communicate with you personally.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Resurrection Reset"

Opening Prayer:

Begin by thanking God for His resurrection power and asking for guidance in applying the sermon's message to our lives.

Key Takeaways:

1. Easter is about more than tradition - it's about experiencing a personal resurrection reset.
2. Jesus' resurrection gives us power to overcome darkness, doubt, and despair.
3. We need to actively listen for God's voice, even in difficult times.
4. The resurrection should be made real and personal in our daily lives.
5. God calls us to "get up" from whatever has been holding us back.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor talked about "keeping moving in darkness." Share a time when you had to keep going despite not seeing the way forward clearly. How did your faith play a role?
2. Reflect on the difference between Peter and John at the tomb. Do you tend to be more cautious like John or all-in like Peter in your faith journey? How can we balance these approaches?
3. The sermon emphasized "keep listening for God's voice." What practices help you hear God's voice in your life? How can we discern God's voice from other influences?
4. How can we make the resurrection "real" in our daily lives beyond just Easter Sunday? What might that look like practically?
5. The pastor challenged us to make the resurrection personal. What area of your life needs a "resurrection reset" right now?
6. Discuss the significance of Jesus calling Mary by name. How does it feel to know that God knows you personally?





Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify one "tomb" in your life (a fear, doubt, or struggle) and take a concrete step to "walk out" of it, trusting in resurrection power.
2. Practice listening for God's voice daily through prayer, meditation on scripture, or quiet reflection. Journal any insights you receive.
3. Choose one way to "proclaim" the resurrection in your everyday life this week (e.g., sharing your testimony, showing Christ-like love to someone, or serving others).
4. Reflect on your baptism or salvation experience. How can you renew that commitment and "reset" your faith journey?
5. Reach out to someone who seems "stuck" or discouraged and offer encouragement based on the hope of resurrection.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His resurrection power. Ask for the courage to live as "resurrected people" and to share that hope with others.

