

20 April 2014 – Easter Day.

Readings: Jeremiah 31:1–6; Acts 10:34–43; Matthew 28:1–10.



Looking For...

INTRO: *Looking for Jesus* – Matthew 28:5, “The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are **looking for Jesus**, who was crucified.’”

I. DON'T BE AFRAID.

Matthew 28:5, “The angel said to the women, ‘**Do not be afraid...**’”

It takes courage to look for Jesus. It can be upsetting not to find him, especially if he's not where you last saw him, or expect him to be.

Easter morning all the disciples are filled with fear behind locked doors. Seeing the angel didn't help. **Matthew 28:4**, “The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.”

It takes courage to go beyond where we've been and what we know.



II. TRUST GOD TO KNOW.

A. What you're looking for.

Matthew 28:5, “The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for **I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.**”

What Women Want - Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt.

I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For – U2.

Augustine, “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can **find rest in you.**”

B. Where and how to help you find it.



III. INVESTIGATE AND ELIMINATE.

A. EMPTY TOMBS.

Matthew 28:6, “He is not here...”

B. GRAVECLOTHES.

Matthew 28:6, “...Come and see the place where he lay.” Options:

1. Disciples stole the body. In effect, they were liars and willing to die for a lie.
2. Jesus walked out of the tomb (after flogging, crucifixion and rolling away the stone).
3. The guards stole the body (on penalty of death, and then didn't return it when the “rumours” began).
4. He rose from the dead.

John Stott, “They were like a discarded chrysalis from which the butterfly has emerged.” **John 20:8**, “Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He **saw and believed.**”



IV. GO AND TELL (Talk, Listen, Read, Explore, etc.).

Matthew 28:7, 10, “Go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee... Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. **Go and tell** my brothers to go to Galilee”

Matthew 7:7, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”

Matthew 28:8, “So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.”



V. HOLD ON TO HIS PROMISES!

Matthew 28:6-7, “he has risen, just as he said...”

Matthew 16:21, “From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”

Matthew 28:7, 10, “There you will see him.’ Now I have told you... Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to

go to Galilee; **there they will see me.**”

Matthew 7:8, “For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, **the door will be opened.**”

Matthew 28:16-17, “Then the eleven disciples **went to Galilee**, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When **they saw him**, they worshiped him; but some doubted.” Cf. Seeing is not believing.

Lenski, “Rationalism points to this doubting as proof that the resurrection was not a reality. Yet the very fact that the disciples were not in the least credulous and quick to believe but had to have all doubts completely and thoroughly removed, is proof of the most convincing kind that Jesus did arise and that he did appear to his disciples as is recorded in the inspired record.”

Ordinary Italian fisherman **Roberto Godi** caught an **unbelievable** catfish when he went fishing on the River Po at Mantova, northern Italy. This monster is 8.2 feet long. It weighs about 250 lbs. This gigantic catfish has become the largest freshwater fish caught in Europe. It took Roberto about 45 minutes to reel in the fish. The fisherman was lucky as the huge fish was trying to throw him into the water, but didn't manage it as other fishermen helped to lift the beast on a weighing frame. After breaking the world record, Godi released the catfish back into the water safe and well.

To believe means to be “found” by Jesus, the ultimate fisherman or shepherd.

CONCLUSION: Easter is when we then proclaim to others, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you... There you will see him.’ Now I have told you,” In Jesus’ name, Amen. – Pastor Aldi 😊