

## Resurrection Sunday 2020 Scripture Lessons

**Psalms 16:1-11 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. <sup>2</sup>I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." <sup>3</sup>As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. <sup>4</sup>The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. <sup>5</sup>LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. <sup>6</sup>The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. <sup>7</sup>I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. <sup>8</sup>I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup>because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. <sup>11</sup>You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**Acts 10:34-43 (NIV)** <sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup>but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. <sup>36</sup>You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached-- <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup>"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be

seen. <sup>41</sup>He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

**Matthew 28:1-10 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup>There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." <sup>8</sup>So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



**Resurrection Sunday 2020**  
**I Know You are Looking for Jesus**  
Matthew 28:1-9

**Sermon Notes:**

- ❑ **Looking for Jesus** (verse 5)  
Matthew 4:19, 5:4, 6:33, 9:2, 11:28, 28:20; Mark 5:34, 9:23; John 8:36, 10:10, 11:25; Acts 3:15; Colossians 3:4
  
- ❑ **Looking in the wrong place** (verse 6)  
1 Corinthians 15:17-20, 32; Philipians 3:7-8
  
- ❑ **Finding more than you expect** (verse 8)  
John 15:11, 16:20, 20:20
  
- ❑ **Meeting Jesus** (verse 9) Luke 15:4-7, 19:10
  
- **In God's Word—The Bible**  
John 5:39-40, 20:31
  
- **In the fellowship of believers and worship**  
Matthew 2:2,9, 18:20
  
- **In serving and obeying Jesus**  
John 12:26, 4:21

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Prayer . . .

**I Know You Are Looking For Jesus**  
Matthew 28:1-10

When the women went to the tomb early that first Easter morning, there was an angel waiting for them.

The angel had already rolled back the stone and dispatched the soldiers with the radiant glory of heaven.

The angel said to the women,

**I Know that you are looking for Jesus** (vs. 5)

The truth is, God knows what you are looking for in life, and whether you realize or not,

**you are looking for Jesus.**

If you're anxious and fearful in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jesus says, ***My peace I give you . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

If you're worried sick about how you're going to pay the bills—and have food on the table because you've lost your job due to the coronavirus . . . Jesus says, ***“Seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well.***

If you're a stressed-out parent trying your best to teach your children at home and provide constructive activities during this lockdown, and maybe, just maybe, need a moment to yourself, Jesus says, ***“Come to me all you are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*** (Matthew 11:28)

If you're caught in an inescapable vortex of addiction—and you've tried pulling yourself out—and do all right for a while—but keep getting sucked back in, Jesus says, ***“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”***

To children he says, ***“let the little children come to me . . . for to them belongs the kingdom of heaven.”***

To the teenager, anxious about what's going to be left of the world they're inheriting, Jesus says, ***“I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.”***

To the student who wonders which career path to take Jesus says, ***“I am the way”***

To the lonely he says, ***“I am with you always”***

To the grieving Jesus says, ***“You will be comforted.”***

To the discouraged Jesus says, ***“All things are possible to him who believes.”***

To the sick he says, ***“be healed.”***

To the guilty Jesus says, ***“Your sins are forgiven”***

To the dying Jesus says, ***“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”***

**Whatever you are looking for in life—you will find it in Jesus.**

It doesn't matter what your dreams, hopes, fears, frustrations or failures are this morning—***I know you are looking for Jesus.***

Jesus is the author of life; He's the source—the spring of life—and everything worth having flows from Him.

The women were looking for the right thing—for the right person, but they were

**Looking in the wrong place.**

<sup>5</sup>And the angel . . . said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for **I know that you are looking for Jesus** who has been crucified. <sup>6</sup>**He is not here**, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He **was** lying.

The women were looking for Jesus, but they were looking in the wrong place. ***“He is not here”*** the angel said.

**How often do we look in all the wrong places for the things Jesus Himself promises to provide?**

We try to fill our lives with all sorts of activities and behaviors—looking for some excitement, stimulation or just trying to escape boredom—**but they are all tombs**—places of death.

The Apostle Paul said in I Cor 15, if there is no resurrection, if Jesus is not alive; if I have to live without hope and without the life Jesus came to bring, then ***let's eat and drink for tomorrow we die!***

**Everything apart from Jesus will end up buried in a landfill . . .or a grave.**

We don't always understand that **what we are really looking for is Jesus**. That is the case for so many today that are searching for fulfillment or security or significance. That was certainly true for one young man, and his amazing story illustrates that we are all **looking for Jesus**.

Brilliant, sophisticated and handsome, by thirty he was a respected professor in one of the top universities in the world. He was a charismatic speaker. His arguments were overwhelmingly persuasive. He enjoyed celebrity status.

This man grew up in a Christian home, with a devout, praying mother who nurtured him in the truths of the word of God. But, like so many other young people, he went off to college, as much to escape parental control as to study. By his own admission, he indulged himself in what he called "a hissing cauldron of immorality."

He dabbled in the occult, in mysticism, and became a devoted follower of a popular Eastern religion. He became a powerful spokesman for this religion through the influence of his university position.

His admirers were many. His mistress was beautiful. His friends were powerful. His influence was far reaching. He had everything!

But with all this he was still looking for something. Inside there was an aching void that he couldn't fill.

He knew he wasn't really free. He was a captive of his own sensual lust; to his own ego and pride; to his continual need for the praise and attention of others.

Then this young university professor and pop culture celebrity, had a profound experience that changed the course of his life.

He would later sum up his journey this way: our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in God

As contemporary as this account sounds, it didn't happen in this century or even the last, but more than 1600 years ago in 386 AD.

The man was Augustine, one of the most influential thinkers, philosophers and theologians that has ever lived. It is no exaggeration that his finding Jesus changed the course of Western culture and history.

You see, in all of his searching, **he was looking for Jesus**.

**Finding more than you expect** (verse 8)

While the women didn't find what they were looking for at the tomb, they did find **more than they expected**

*7. . . go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."* <sup>8</sup>*So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet **filled with joy**, and ran to tell his disciples.*

On that first Easter morning the women didn't stay in the tomb, in the wonderful radiance of the angel.

Tombs are places of death, and they were no longer focused on death; they were focused now on life.

Suddenly, their grief and pain; their broken hearts and anxiety; was replaced by something **unexpected**.

They stepped lightly out of the tomb and back into the garden.

Before the garden seemed oppressive with darkness and shadows and the pungent odor of burial spices.

Now it was filled with sunlight and flowers and the fragrance of spring.

**They walked out of death and into life.**

*<sup>8</sup>"So the women hurried away from the tomb afraid, **yet filled with joy**"*

The women who crept to the tomb Easter Sunday, looking for Jesus, got more than they expected.

They didn't expect to be "filled with joy" that morning.

### **Unexpected Joy** (verse 8)

When you discover the good news about Jesus, you're going to get much more than you ever expected.

### **I know you are looking for Jesus.**

When you want to drop your burdens, the worries, the fears, the struggles that have left you defeated and burdened, and you want to step lightly out into God's garden of **delight and joy**, then you need to meet Jesus

When you find Jesus, you will discover Him to be far more than you **expected** Him to be. This was true for a professor at Oxford University in England.

C.S. Lewis was an expert in Medieval literature and the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and many other books. When he was nine years old, his life was crushed by the slow and painful death of his mother to cancer. By the time he was a teenager he had given up entirely on God and become an atheist. And yet, God never gave up on him. Lewis knew Jesus was pursuing him. He wrote: "You must picture me alone in my study, night after night, feeling the steady unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. "He was terrified of encountering this God he did not believe in. Finally, he met Jesus, and his autobiography is titled, *Surprised by Joy*.

### **Joy is the distinctive mark of the Christian life.**

Jesus said in John 15:11 *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.* (NIV)

When the Youth of one of the congregations I served, went on a mission trip to Mexico, they were astounded

at the extreme poverty they encountered in a remote village; and they were even more astonished at the joy believers there had in spite of it.

In John 16:20 Jesus told his disciples: *I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to **joy**.* (NIV)

This promise was fulfilled after the resurrection. In John 20:20 we read: *And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then **rejoiced** when they saw the Lord.* (NASB)

When you find Jesus, you are going to experience **an unexpected Joy**.

As the women ran to tell the disciples what they had encountered that morning, they experienced something else unexpected:

*<sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus **met** them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.*

### **Meeting Jesus** (verse 9)

**The women were looking for Jesus, but it was Jesus who found them.**

In fact, Jesus showed up and met people who didn't even know they were looking for Him.

He met Mary Magdalene in her grief, he met the disciples when they were locked behind closed doors because of their fears and doubts. He met them again while they were going about their daily work of fishing.

He met Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus where Saul had planned to arrest and execute Christians. (You might know him better as Paul the apostle, the writer of much of the NT)

**I know you are looking for Jesus, but Jesus is looking for you.**

In Luke 19:10 Jesus said, “*For the Son of Man came to **seek** and to save what was lost.*” (NIV)

### **Have you met Jesus?**

**If not, then go where Jesus directs us.** We don’t have to go to Galilee—we won’t necessarily find Jesus there, but Jesus has told us where to meet him.

First Jesus said we will encounter Him . . .

#### ➤ **In God’s Word—The Bible**

In John 5:39-40 Jesus said, “*You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These are the Scriptures that testify about me.***” (NIV)

In John 20:31 we are given this promise about the Bible: *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* (NIV)

Second, we will meet Jesus . . .

#### ➤ **In the fellowship of believers and worship**

Jesus promised, “*For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*” (Matthew 18:20 NKJV)

And finally, we meet Jesus . . .

#### ➤ **In serving and obeying Jesus**

Jesus said in John 12:26: “*Whoever serves me must follow me; and **where I am, my servant also will be . . .***” (NIV)

Jesus told his disciples in John 14:21 “*Whoever has my commands and **obeys** them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I too will love him and show myself to him.***” (NIV)

### **I know you are looking for Jesus**

You will discover Him in God’s Word, the Bible. You will meet Him in the fellowship of believers. You will encounter Him while serving and obeying Him.

And when you do, if you receive Jesus in faith, falling at His feet in worship, you will experience a profound and lasting **joy!**

### **I know you are looking for Jesus**

Let us pray . . . Heavenly Father, as Augustine confessed long ago, “our hearts are restless until they find our rest in you.” Lord, we know that Jesus came so that we may have life and have it to the full. We thank you that Jesus defeated sin and death through His cross and resurrection. We thank you that, because Jesus has risen from the dead, we can have joy and peace by believing in Him; that we can experience a life that will never end; a life that begins right now and goes on for eternity. Help us by faith to live out this new resurrection life, by believing and trusting in Jesus. In His name we pray, Amen