

## **Easter Thoughts**

### **Luke 24 :1 -8**

*(preached at Easter Sunrise Service March 31, 2024)*

There are 2 stories/ episodes about Jesus that are in all 4 gospels. The first is the story about Jesus walking on the water and the second is the Resurrection story.

Now each story varies a bit, but also remember that each gospel was written to a different audience. Matthew was written to demonstrate Jesus' messianic identity. In other words Matthew wrote it for the Jewish people. Mark is the action packed gospel, Mark wrote for the Romans, and used the stories of Jesus life, that showed action. He is definitely the more concise gospel. Luke wrote for the Gentile Christians, or in other words the converts that were not Jewish to start with. He generally explains more. I just chose a brief part of his resurrection story. Luke goes on to tell the stories about Jesus interacting with the disciples after His resurrection. John wrote to proclaim that Jesus was the Son of God. John had a slightly more Greek influence as to who his audience would be.

Now there are slight differences in each gospel concerning the resurrection. Maybe differences is not the correct word, to be more specific it is the amount of information. All 4 gospels mention the stone that was in front of the tomb, they all mention a Mary and Matthew and Luke mention a few Marys and Luke mentions "the women". Matthew, Mark, and Luke state that there was a man in the tomb that spoke to them and John says that Jesus was outside of the tomb and spoke to Mary Magdalene .

If you think about it, they are all saying the same thing, relating the same event, some with more details than others, but the basics are there:stone, Mary, someone explaining what happened, and most importantly AN EMPTY TOMB!!

Think about it, could 4 different people explain the event in the exact same way, there are style differences. Believe it or not I am more succinct when I write, not a lot of fluff, I try to stick to "Just the facts". We are about to see a beautiful sunrise. Would an engineer, a scientist and a poet write about it the same way? NO It will vary given different backgrounds, views, and audience or purpose. Is one more accurate, it depends on your perspective. The point is that in all 4 Gospels the tomb was empty, Jesus lives!!!

- Candy Iwanicki