

Message: “TELL SOMEBODY...WE IS RISEN!” by Pastor Jon Whisner, 4/17/22

Description: For many, the Easter story is familiar territory. Christ rose from the dead, and those who saw the empty tomb told everyone they could of the good news. But we often miss or skip over the messengers who tell of the resurrection of Christ who were already dead when Jesus died on the Cross. Their identity is veiled and plenty of unanswerable questions arise from their shocking presence. And yet, their lives give testimony to the resurrection power of Jesus!

Key Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10, Matthew 27:45-53

- Verses 1-10 of Matthew 28 show us two women, alive, and not so well, going to the tomb to grieve over their dead Savior. But when they arrive and encounter the angel, the empty tomb, and Jesus Himself, alive and well...Well! They have a story to tell!! Take time in your group to share about who it was that told you about Christ. Deity is in the details. Be specific. Tell of the circumstance and how the Lord sovereignly brought you to Himself by someone engaging with you.
- Scripture tells us that the people who the Lord raised to life in Matthew 27:52-53 were godly saints. We don't know much about them: whether they were saints of old, or contemporaries of Jesus and the disciples, or how many there were, or who they revealed themselves to, or where they were while they were dead. The Lord doesn't put that in His word, so we need not (and should not) speculate too much about the details. God put in His word what He wanted us to know, so let's focus on what is there.

And what we know is that these people were dead and raised to life when Christ rose from the grave. Jesus' death defeated death, and these people experienced Christ's resurrection power and were raised to earthly life again. And then they went into Jerusalem to tell what happened to them.

- What about you? What's your story? It's one thing to be told of Jesus, it's another thing to tell others of Jesus yourself. Sharing the Gospel for many is an intimidating, fearful thing. But it doesn't need to be. Encourage one another in your group how they can effectively, lovingly, boldly and courageously share their faith. Give helpful ideas and examples of what has and hasn't worked for you. Close by praying for those you have been or need to witness to. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage, equip, empower and enable you to see them won to Christ!