

—{1}. **Matthew 28:6a.** ..... **Risen!**

A. Introduction

1. The angel `s words to the women were `He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. ...`. Risen. Just as He said.
  
2. Throughout His ministry, Jesus told His listeners about His coming death – that truly He was a man born in order to die
  - a. however, Jesus was not merely being morbid, for each time, either implicitly or directly, to told also about His coming resurrection
  - b. the gospel of Matthew, alone, records six occasions in which Jesus foretold his death and resurrection
    - (A) early in His ministry when the religious rulers asked for a sign, Jesus said, `An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.` (Matthew 12:39-40), using Jewish idiom to tell them He would rise on the third calendar day
    - (B) later on we read that `From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.` (Matthew 16:21)
    - (C) after His transfiguration, `As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."' (Matthew 17:9)
    - (D) in the last year of His ministry, `And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men; and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day." ...' (Matthew 17:22-23)
    - (E) then in the final few months, Jesus said, `Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.` (Matthew 20:18-19)

- (F) On the night in which He was betrayed, 'Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.'" (Matthew 26:31-32)
- c. These words frequently went over the heads of Jesus' disciples, but not of His enemies: 'Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.''" (Matthew 27:62-63)
  - d. Jesus clearly foretold to all His resurrection from the dead
3. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, the famous missionary, wrote a charming and delightful autobiography called A Song of Ascents. He tells about a layman, a newspaperman and mutual friend, who was called upon to conduct a funeral service. Being an exact man, he wanted to do it properly and in the best Christian tradition. So he turned to the New Testament as the original source and example of how Jesus conducted a funeral. And he found that Jesus didn't conduct funerals at all. All He dealt with were resurrections. <sup>-{2}</sup>.
- a. Jesus didn't do funerals; Jesus only did resurrections
  - b. there was nothing accidental or haphazard in God's working out His plan for our salvation in the death of Jesus Christ
  - c. and there was nothing careless or thoughtless in the words of Jesus Christ – 'for He has risen, just as He said.'
4. and I would like to look this morning at some of Jesus other words – things that He has foretold and promised to us – which result from His resurrection and which shall as surely be fulfilled and take place
- B. His Providing Salvation
1. Jesus said, 'For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.' (Luke 19:10)
    - a. lost ... that describes every single man, woman, boy and girl who has ever entered this world since the time of Adam – lost, because sin has separated between us and our God
    - b. why else the cross? why else the resurrection? if it were not for the fact that such a radical act must take place to restore man to God

- c. sin had to be paid for, and the historical fact is that it was, even as we read earlier, 'For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,' (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- d. we can, perhaps, realize why the death of Christ as sacrifice for our sin is of first importance; but why His resurrection? Romans 4:25 gives the answer: 'He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.' – being justified; judicially declared righteous and acceptable to God – is proven by God's raising Jesus from the dead, demonstrating God's acceptance of His sacrifice
- e. so then Paul is able to ask later, 'who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.' (Romans 8:34)
- f. and if anyone does not know this truth for himself or for herself, then we issue the invitation with the words with which Matthew 28: 6 continues, '... come see ...'. – 'O taste and see that the Lord is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!' (Psalms 34:8)

2. Jesus seeks and saves believers, just as He said

### C. His Continuing Presence With Us

- 1. Jesus said, '... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20)
  - a. this is just one of Jesus' promises that He, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit will abide with and indwell those accepting Him as Saviour
  - b. it is a promise that is realized through faith in the risen Christ: 'so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith' (Ephesians 3:17)
  - c. in assuring His disciples on that betrayal night, Jesus said, 'I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (i.e. Paraclete, or "One Standing Beside"), that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.' (John 14:16-18) – promising that both He and the Holy Spirit would be with us
  - d. Jesus knows that the world in which we live is foreign to the gospel and to our spiritual good, so to the

Father He prays, 'I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.' (John 17:14-15)

e. and in Hebrews 13:5 we have this further assurance, '... For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."' (NKJV)

2. and Jesus abides with believers, just as He said

#### D. Our Eternal Home

1. Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:2-3)

a. If Jesus, who as God the Son,

(A) spoke this world and all it contains into existence in but a week

(B) a world which we see even now fallen and damaged on account of the ravages of sin

(C) yet a world full of beauty and wonder

(D) how wonderful must be the place He has been preparing for us over the past almost 20 centuries

b. the Bible does not tell us much about heaven

(A) and when it does it uses picture words of material images

(B) as its having a street of pure gold

(C) and its twelve gates each being a single pearl

(D) for our human minds and experience cannot grasp the spiritual reality, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, 'but just as it is written, "things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."'

2. and He will take believers to their heavenly home, just as He said

#### E. Conclusion – Jeremy's Egg<sup>{3}</sup>.

1. this is a true story although the names have been changed

- a. in her second grade class, Doris Miller had 12-year old Jeremy, who had a crippling, terminal disease, affecting his learning ability, as well as causing involuntary movement and vocal noises. His disruptions were distracting the other 18 pupils, but when she spoke to Jeremy's parents she found a special school was just not an option. There grew a coldness within her despite this family's hardship with their only child, but she prayed to God for patience to accept Jeremy's presence.
- b. Jeremy responded by saying loudly in the class that he loved her.
- c. now, let me relate the rest of Doris Miller's story in the first person
- d. 'Spring had come and my children talked excitedly about Easter. I told them the story of Jesus. So they could understand the idea of new life springing forth, I gave each a large plastic egg. "Tomorrow, bring this back with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"
- e. "'Yes, Miss Miller," they all exclaimed, except Jeremy. I made a mental note to call his parent and explain the project to them. But that night everything seemed to go wrong. The sink was stopped up and it took an hour to get it unclogged; then I had to get groceries; and then prepare a vocab test for the next day – to call Jeremy's parents I completely forgot
- f. 'The next day 19 eggs were all presented to me. With the math lesson over, I opened the first egg. "A flower! Yes that's certainly a sign of new life. When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." "That's my egg, Miss Miller," a girl in the front row called out.
- g. 'I opened the second egg. A butterfly. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."
- h. "'Moss. Yes, that too shows life." Billy from the back of the room spoke up, beaming, "My dad helped me!"
- i. 'Empty! "Oh," I thought, "it must be Jeremy's. He didn't understand. Why did I forget to call his parents?" I slid it quietly aside, reaching to get another. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" came out the words in his loud voice. "But Jeremy, your egg is empty!'
- j. "'Yes," he said softly, "but Jesus' tomb was empty, too!" Time stopped. When I could speak again, I asked, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!" The coldness in my heart melted.
- k. 'Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.'

2. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. ...'
  - a. Risen, that He might save us from our sins
  - b. Risen, that He might be with us every day
  - c. Risen, that He might return to take us to our heavenly home.

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Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in (*braces*). Version identifiers are:

AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation (usually the 1995 edition)
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers

Some of my favourite commentaries and resources used in the preparation of this message are identified as follow:

BM – Biblical Museum, Editor James Comper Gray, ca 1870  
EBC – The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, © 1986 Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 49530, Michigan  
EGT – The Expositor’s Greek Testament, Philippians by H. A. A. Kennedy, Hodder & Stoughton, 1903  
Kerux – The sermon & illustration data base compiled by Rev. David Holwick at the web-site, [www.holwick.com](http://www.holwick.com).

2. *Jesus Didn’t Do Funerals*, Kerux illustrations, 5246, original source <http://www.expositor.com>
3. Adapted from *Jeremy’s Egg* by Ida Mae Kempel – Kerux illustrations, 63186