

## EASTER SUNDAY

### Matthew 28:8-9 | Dave Solmes

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This Greeting was the first recorded word (Matthew 28) that Jesus said to His disciples when He appeared to them after His resurrection. This word as well as the disciples' response is written by Matthew.

Matthew 28 (verse 8-9) 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.

To appreciate this sacred moment we should consider what had happened before this. These disciples:

- Had been told of Jesus' birth
- They had left their careers and family when responding to Jesus invitation to follow Him
- Listened as He taught
- Watched as He prayed
- Was surprised and thankful when He healed the sick and raised the dead

Yet within the last few days things had changed; what Jesus had said about his life and death were actually happening.

Mark 9:30-32 "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

They had witnessed this actually happening just a few days ago. And they still did not understand. Jesus at a great cost, had demonstrated His love – He had died as a Savior of the World.

They had witnessed Jesus arrest. His Verdict was guilty, heard Him being called a criminal, He was punished violently in front of everyone, all the hatred, animosity, the evil, leading to Jesus suffocating on a cross, as everyone watched amidst the jeers and accusations of so many.

So, at this point, the disciples were horrified for this seemed to be the end of the road, they did not understand, so disappointed and fearful of their future.

These type of questions come up from time to time still today. For example: The world God made is still full of all kinds division and equality and their seems to be no solution – Has God given up?

In Matthew 28 we read how the disciples in search of answers, and out of respect for Jesus, early that first Easter morning had gone to Jesus tomb, only to find that His body was no longer there.

When learning of this, Matthew describes that the disciples were afraid and yet filled with joy ... so they tried to meet up to discuss all that had happened and to console themselves.

Our text says tells us that on that first Easter Sunday, Jesus had arranged a beautiful meet up.

Of course, this was not their first meeting. They had spent 3 years together, but this meeting was different.

Much to their surprise, there on the streets, in front of them, was Jesus.

We can only imagine ... It would be hard to muster up faith and courage to believe that they would ever see Jesus again; BUT THERE HE WAS.

Big Idea: Jesus' death was not, and is not the end of the story. His death is the beginning of a new story that is confirmed by Jesus' resurrection.

### **PART #1: JESUS IS SEEN MEETING THEM**

Jesus once again, demonstrating His love on the street in full view – He said after three days He would rise from the dead. And there He was, back on the street, among people: See ME, touch ME, hear Me: I am risen. CONFIRMING AGAIN HIS HEART TO BE WITH US.

His teaching, His promises, and many prophecies now entirely fulfilled. His resurrection confirming this that His sacrifice for the sins of mankind – received / approved.

### **PART #2: IT SEEMS JESUS HE SPOKE FIRST WHEN JESUS BROUGHT, "GREETINGS"**

When we come to Jesus, it is not so much what we say, as it is what we hear. The word "Greetings" implies a type of delivery. When someone brings greetings there is usually something specific that needs to be heard by the audience.

#### ***Question: What is the greeting?***

Yes, One word, but there is an invitation here that we can't miss.

His resurrection bore evidence that He was sinless and now Mankind can forever be in relationship with God. Human fear and indecisive joy swallowed up in that meeting with Jesus

- Greetings – Has God NOT has given up on us – or His world
- Greetings: Let me help you with your unbelief
- Greeting: Let me help you by delivering you from all the things that weigh you down,
- Greetings: People need to step out of religion into a relationship with Him
- Greetings: God keeps His promises

### **PART #3: WHAT DID THE DISCIPLES DO?**

- They Came to Him
- Claspd His Feet
- Worshipped

They bow down, and take hold of Jesus' feet—perhaps to make sure He is truly there, and also as they humbly and reverently embraced Him.

Perhaps these people are first fruits of the resurrection, the forming of the church, a new family, a people that hang on to Jesus and don't let go and a people that worship Him; unashamedly on the streets for all to see.

#### ***Note: This is the desired pathway to God.***

Come to Jesus and hang on. Easter is not so much what we say it is what we hear and receive.

Easter is all about a God that speaks, welcomes, heals, comforts, and helps people.

- His heart is still to Meet with Us
- His heart is still to greet us .. / welcome us ...

**CHALLENGE:** So, Let's pay close attention to Jesus, this Easter. Let's carry these thoughts as we consider how near, and fully present Jesus is right now.