

## Every Day Is Easter!

**John 20:1-10 HCSB** On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" **3** At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. **5** Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in. **6** Then, following him, Simon Peter came also. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. **7** The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself. **8** The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then entered the tomb, saw, and believed. **9** For they still did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples went home again.

### Introduction:

Many people love Easter for the emotions it engenders. Some have warm memories of coloring Easter eggs, wearing Easter clothes, hearing Irving Berlin's "Easter Parade," and enjoying the feeling of springtime with its tulips, daffodils, and hopping bunnies. Some recall going to church on Easter and singing rousing hymns of Resurrection triumph.

Wouldn't it be great to replicate that joyful mood each day of one's life? The disciples were never the same after that first Easter. It affected how they felt, how they viewed the world, and what they did for the rest of their lives. They never got over it. Its implications are not limited to one day per year.

But often, guilt gets in the way. People who have done shameful things have a harder time sustaining self-image, maintaining harmonious relationships, and keeping their spirits up. The preponderance of entertainment, drugs, and alcohol in our society is caused by people wanting to distract themselves from an entangling sense of failure and guilt. It's time we learn that because He lives, all guilt is gone.

**1. Jesus' Easter Text.** In his account of the first Easter, John (who had a lot to feel guilty about) told of running to the tomb with Peter (who had even more to feel guilty about). Seeing the empty tomb, they suspected Christ was alive. But verse nine says, "For they still did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead." Whenever we come across the word "Scripture" in the Gospels, we can substitute, "Old Testament." None of the New Testament books had yet been written. Verse 9, then says, "They still did not understand from the Old Testament that Jesus had to rise from the dead." Later that afternoon, two disciples were walking to Emmaus. Jesus appeared to them, but His identity was withheld. After engaging them in conversation, He "interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures." (Luke 24:27). Later they said, "Weren't our hearts ablaze within us while He was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" (v. 32). Later that night, Christ "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." (v. 45). Jesus wanted the disciples to understand *from the Old Testament* that He had risen from the dead. Very probably He quoted Psalm 16.

### 2. David's Easter Text

- **Psalms 16:5-11 HCSB** LORD, You are my portion and my cup of *blessing*; You hold my future. **6** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance. **7** I will praise the LORD who counsels me--even at night my conscience instructs me. **8** I keep the LORD in mind always. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also rests securely. **10** For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your

Faithful One to see the Pit. 11 You reveal the path of life to me; in Your presence is abundant joy; in Your right hand are eternal pleasures.

This psalm is clearly messianic. "Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; My body also will rest secure, because You will not abandon me to the grave, Nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (NIV). Why do we think this is one of the passages Christ quoted to the disciples on the first Easter? First, because it is a primary Old Testament prophecy about the Resurrection; Second, because of what happened fifty days after Christ arose.

### 3. Peter's Text

- **Acts 2:25-32 HCSB** For David says of Him: **I saw the Lord ever before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced. Moreover my flesh will rest in hope, 27 because You will not leave my soul in Hades, or allow Your Holy One to see decay. 28 You have revealed the paths of life to me; You will fill me with gladness in Your presence. 29** "Brothers, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing this in advance, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: **He was not left in Hades, and His flesh did not experience decay. 32** "God has resurrected this Jesus. We are all witnesses of this.

On that great day of Pentecost, Peter preached the first evangelistic sermon in church history. Look at the Old Testament text he highlighted: "Whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. For David says concerning Him . . ."—and he quoted Psalm 16, applying its truths to the risen Jesus of Nazareth.

### 4. Paul's Text

- **Acts 13:32-38 HCSB** And we ourselves proclaim to you the good news of the promise that was made to our forefathers. 33 God has fulfilled this to us their children by raising up Jesus, as it is written in the second Psalm: **You are My Son; today I have become Your Father. 34** Since He raised Him from the dead, never to return to decay, He has spoken in this way, **I will grant you the faithful covenant blessings made to David. 35** Therefore He also says in another passage, **You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay. 36** For David, after serving his own generation in God's plan, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and decayed. 37 But the One whom God raised up did not decay. 38 Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you,

This was also Paul's text on the Resurrection. In his first recorded sermon, Paul quoted Psalm 16, explaining: "David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins."

### Conclusion:

That, then, is the implication of Easter for you and me. Jesus rose from the dead that our sins might be forgiven, that we might once again feel inwardly clean (Isaiah 1:18). When we come to the Risen Lord in repentance and faith, He forgives our sin, washes our hearts, and makes us new. That was David's message. That was Christ's message. That was Peter's message. That was Paul's message. And today, after all these years, it is our message. Will you receive it?