



But... Easter

Acts 13:27-31

The Present Was Changed

- The disciples had been so confident that Jesus was the Messiah, but now that Jesus was dead, they were defeated.
- Everything changed when the women arrived at the tomb and found it empty.
- When the disciples, who had fled, heard the angel's message, they knew they had been forgiven.
- Regardless of how Sunday morning started, Jesus' resurrection changed everything.
- The Apostles did not get a "do over" for what happened on Friday, but through His grace Jesus offered them the opportunity to start again.

The Future Was Changed

- Without the resurrection, the life and ministry of Jesus would have had a very minimal impact on the world.
- Because Jesus did rise from the dead, the Holy Spirit empowered the 11, and they became witnesses about Jesus and His story to the very ends of the earth.
- If we were to eliminate every university in the world started by churches, there would hardly be a place for our children to be educated.
- If we were to eliminate every relief agency founded by the church, then there would be nobody there the next time a disaster strikes.
- The women's rights movement began in the church.
- If there had been no resurrection, the Holy Spirit would not have come, the church would not have been founded and the world would be a darker place today.

Our Forever Is Changed

- It was not just the early Christians' present and the future that was changed by the resurrection, but our forever, too.
- Jesus did not just come to heal and feed people and make them feel good.
- It took more than three years of preaching and healing and Jesus dying on the cross to buy our salvation.
- Because Jesus was able to defeat death, He gave us the victory of eternal life.
- If Jesus had remained in the tomb, all His promises would have been empty.

Conclusion

- Do you believe that Jesus can offer you grace, forgive your sins, and give you eternal life?
- On this resurrection morning, we not only celebrate that Jesus conquered the grave but, that in so doing, His promises are true, and we will conquer the grave as well.
- The promise of Jesus does not just begin when this life is over, it begins the moment we believe!
- Do you have the assurance of eternal life?