

“The FOLDED Napkin”

Today is Resurrection Sunday also known as EASTER Sunday

- We’ve been Celebrating **the Resurrection of Christ** for over 2000 Years.
- I found it challenging to get Jesus out of the Tomb
- I have talked about his death/burial/resurrection
- We have spoken on the women at the tomb
- We have looked deep into the dark empty tomb
- We have preached on the Power of the Cross

HOWEVER today... I want us to look...at a much ***different perspective*** of this GREAT story.

- Meeting with other Pastors we shared our Easter Messages
- I thought of a ***different approach*** for this year and got excited
- ***I got so excited...***
- I had to bring the excitement to you... on **this *RESURRECTION SUNDAY!!***

John 20:1-7 (NIV) Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

{2} So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

{3} So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

{4} Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

{5} He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

{6} ***Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,***

{7} as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

- This scripture has been read thousands of times around the world this week
- People have quoted it
- People have read it
- People have acted it out
- So what's ***the BIG DEAL?***

This morning let's look at it at ***a different angle...***

- **IN FACT** in a way that I had **NEVER** seen it before.

Let's look at verses 6 and 7 - "The FOLDED Napkin"

{6} Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,

{7} as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

The Bible tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of His tomb.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

- But something unusual would happen
- A clue would be left behind
- Why the traders were rejoicing in the death of Jesus...
- Jesus was giving us some clues to celebrate as well

Vs. 7- The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Is that important? If so...then why?

- **What** was **Jesus** trying to tell us...
- In the form of Morris code?
- In the form forensic evidence??
- It was all laying there...folded up on His tomb

In order to understand **the significance of the folded napkin**, you have to understand a little bit about **Hebrew traditions** of that day.

The folded napkin had to do with the **Master and Servant**

- And every Jewish boy **knew** this tradition.
- When **the servant** set the dinner table for the master,
- He made sure that it was **exactly** the way **the master** wanted it.
- The table was furnished **perfectly**
- The servant would **wait just out of sight**, until **the master** had finished eating
- The servant **would not** dare **touch that table**, until **the master** was **finished**.

Now if **the master** were **done eating**, he would **rise from the table**, **wipe his fingers**, his **mouth**, and clean **his beard**, and would **wad up that napkin** and **toss it onto the table**.

- **The servant** would then know **to clear the table**.
- For in those days, **the wadded napkin** meant, **"I'm done"**.

But if **the master** got up from the table, and **folded his napkin**, and **laid it beside his plate**, **the servant** would not dare touch the table, **because.....**

The folded napkin meant, **"I'm coming back!"**

John 14:3 (NIV) And if I go and **prepare a place for you**, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

He is Coming Back!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The empty tomb says....**He's gone to prepare a place for those that love Him!**

John 14:1 - Jesus said, **"Let not your hearts be troubled**

What's it like?

John said, "**The only way** I can describe it is by telling you **what's not there!**"

- **No more** PAIN, SORROW, SICKNESS, DEATH, TEARS, CRYING, HUNGER, THIRST, SEA, SUN, MOON, NIGHT, SIN, DECEIVER, CONDEMNATION, SEPERATION, TIME!

CLOSE: What a reunion day – we'll never have to say **GOOD BYE** again!

Romans 8:11 - ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him **who raised Jesus** from the dead **is living in you**, he **who raised Christ** from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies** because of his Spirit **who lives in you**.

If you've not received His Spirit, you can today!

What I See When I **Look At The Resurrection**

- I See **A God That's Alive...**
- I See **An Enemy That's Defeated...**
- I See **A Gospel That's Powerful...**
- I See **A Hope That's Sure...**
- I See **A Promise That's Beyond Description...**

It's Sunday, and **Jesus is alive**, but **where can I find Him**???

To find him **you must know** something about **Him**.

- To know **Him**, you must be **more than acquainted** to Him.
- It's **Easter Sunday...** **Do You Know Him?**

It's Sunday and **Jesus isn't in the tomb**, so **where** could he really be?

- Where is **Jesus?**
- Where is **our Lord?**
- Where is **my savior?**

He's right here!!!!!!!!!!

Don't you feel Him...

- He's **always** been here among us...
- **Don't you** feel His awesome presence?
- It's Sunday, **do you want to find Jesus?**

Jesus ***is my savior*** – because he died for my sins.

- It's Sunday, **do you need a savior?**

Jesus ***is my healer*** – the stripes he took on His back, took care of all sickness.

- It's Sunday, **do you need a healer?**

Jesus ***is my deliver*** –

- **deliver from** depression, drugs, gambling, alcohol.
- It's Sunday, **do you need a deliver?**

Jesus ***is my forgiver*** – he forgives sin.

- He forgives what we can't let go of.
- He forgives what we can't stop thinking about.
- He forgives any sin no matter how horrible it is....Jesus forgives.
- It's Sunday, **do you need a forgiver?**

Jesus ***is my refuge*** –

- He's there when I need someone to talk to.
- He's there when I need a friend.
- It's Sunday, **do you need a refuge?**

Jesus ***is the marriage counselor*** –

- He can put your marriage back together.
- It's Sunday, **do you need a marriage counselor?**

****PRAISE TEAM:*** It's Sunday, **have you found Jesus?**

It's Sunday, **do you know Jesus?**

Religion **will not** help you!!!!!!!!!!

You might be here today and ***you call yourself***

Pentecostal, Baptist, Catholic, Assembly of God, or Presbyterian.

- That's all good, but what I want to know is, ***have you found Jesus?????***

Easter Sunday is **not about** anything else, **but finding Jesus...**

I encourage you to find Jesus. He's **everything** you will ever need...

