

Sermon Series: “Conduct of Christ—His and Ours”—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN – 4/12/2009
Title: “Joy-UP!”
Text: Matthew 28: 1-10
Intro.: **Illus.:** What does ‘Boiler Up’ mean, anyway?
Theme: Living in this post-resurrection era, we should have no reason for fear when filled with Jesus’ resurrection joy.

Joy that CELEBRATES the resurrection of Jesus

- Fear results when we lower our expectations and we don’t expect Jesus to show up
- 1. Looking for the grave rather than seeing the empty tomb (**vs. 1**)
 - a. What if Jesus showed up for our worship this Easter morning?
 - b. The soldiers were struck stone-cold-dead in fear when Jesus showed up that Easter (**vs. 2-4**)
 - c. The women and disciples were confused and speechless when Jesus showed up that Easter (**vs. 5**)
- 2. Fear, which should be foreign to a believer, comes in the midst of what should be a joy-filled life (**vs. 8**)
 - a. Because we are only spectators (*vs. 1*) in our faith—not expecting a living Savior to show up
 - b. Because we forget God’s promises in the midst of irreconcilable things appearing beyond hope (*just as he said vs. 6*)
 - c. Because we become strangely comfortable living with the familiarity of fear (**ruining our witness – vs. 8b**)
 - d. If Jesus showed up with power of his resurrection into your life, what would be your response?
 - e. *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11*
- When Jesus shows back up in our lives, he brings his joy to drive away our fear
- 1. The women were stunned and scared to death by the holy glory of God’s angel (**vs. 3**)
 - a. **Illus.: Fleeing from the bright light**
- 2. Because unforgiven sin is confronted by God glorious love in Christ, it takes away a reason to fear (**fear not-vs5**)
 - a. *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 1 John 4:18*
- 3. Released from our sin and guilt, to fully engage in Jesus’ joy
 - a. *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. John 15:11*

Joy that CALIBRATES our response to life

- **ILLUS.: RESTORING OUR TRUE NORTH**
- Moving from spectator to participants
 1. Getting away from the “wait and see” what they’ll do for me this morning and coming fully engaged to meet Jesus
 2. Jesus’ resurrection is a call for decision and action. (**vs. 5-7, 9-10**)
 3. *Come and see . . . go and tell* (**vs. 6,7**)
- Moving from a “bunker mentality” to a “staging area”
 1. Stop fearing and begin rejoicing (“*afraid, yet filled with joy*” **vs. 8**)
 - a. “*Stop being afraid*” (for your job, for your children, for your health, for your safety, for your future)
 - b. If the resurrection is true, what can happen to you that separates you from the love of God for Christ’s sake?
 2. Stop keeping and start carrying the Easter message to others
 - a. “*The women came to him, grabbed his feet, and worshiped him.*” **vs. 9**
 - b. **Illus.: Running the Mini-marathon—(leave the staging area and get in the race)**
 - c. Our worship is incomplete if we leave the Easter message inside these walls
 3. But bring the right message — *they are listening to what you say!* (**vs. 10**)
 - a. Do you bring a message of fear or a message of security? (afraid of all the same thing the world is)
 - b. Do you bring a message of guilt or a message of freedom? (driven by legalism rather than led by the Spirit)
 - c. Do you bring a message of doubt or a message of faith? (needing proof at every turn or trusting God’s word)
 - d. Do you bring a message of despair or a message of hope? (wringing our hands or folding our hands over life)
 - e. *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Corinthians 4: 7-10*
 - f. **Illus.: Alive and Known**

RESTORING OUR TRUE NORTH

Several years back before the Garmin mapping devices, a woman had bought a new car that was loaded with high-tech options. The first time she drove the car in the rain, she turned a knob she thought would start the windshield wipers. Instead a message flashed across the dash: "Drive car in 360 degrees." She had no idea what that meant, and so when she got home she read the car manual. She learned that while trying to turn on the windshield wipers she had inadvertently turned off the internal mapping compass, and the car had lost its sense of direction. To correct the problem, the car had to be driven in a full circle, pointed north, and then the compass had to be reset. Each time we gather to worship, we are resetting our internal compass. We establish "true north" in our soul, remembering who God is and what his truth proclaims.

ALIVE AND KNOWN

The noted conductor Reichel was taking his choir and orchestra through their final rehearsal of Handel's beautiful and inspiring *Messiah*. When the soprano soloist came in with the refrain, "*I know that my Redeemer liveth*," she sang it with flawless technique, perfect breathing, and clear enunciation. After she completed her part, everyone looked at the conductor, expecting to see his response of approval. With a motion from his baton for silence, he walked over to the soloist and said, almost sorrowfully, "*My daughter, you do not really know that your Redeemer lives, do you?*" Embarrassed, she answered, "Why, yes, I think I do." "*Then sing it!*" cried Reichel. "*Tell it to me so that I'll know you have experienced the joy and power of it.*" Then he motioned to the orchestra to begin, and she sang the truth with a fervor that testified of her personal knowledge of the risen Lord. Those who listened wept and the old master, eyes wet with tears, said to her, "*You do know, for this time you have told me!*"

Matthew 28:1-10

¹Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. ²And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ³And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

⁴The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶"He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷"Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

⁸And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me." [NASB]