

Church Chat @ Home Version

April 19, 2020

"What Story Will You Tell?"

Matthew 28

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

¹¹ While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

NOTES from Pastor Barbara's Sermon:

What story will we tell?

As we _____!

And _____!

And _____ disciples!

A Disciple's life is:

1. _____
2. A little _____
3. _____
4. _____

What story will we tell about our life with Jesus?

1. A disciple's life is **watchful**.

How can you watch for signs of Jesus in your life? _____

What's one thing you can do to let your love and grief and other strong feelings draw you closer to him? _____

2. A disciple's life is **a little frightening**. (and that's OK!)

Just because something is frightening, doesn't mean it's bad. Don't let fear paralyze you. Keep moving according to the last best directions you had.

What's something you think God might be telling you to do, but you're a little afraid to do it? _____

Ask God to show you how to "start moving" – take one step toward obedience, even if you're still a little scared.

3. A disciple's life is joyful.

Think about how Jesus feels about you. Why do you think Jesus popped out in front of the Marys? _____

Jesus is so eager to be with you. He delights to be with YOU. Ask Jesus to show you how much he loves being with you.

4. A disciple's life is faithful – we Go! Tell! And make Disciple's!

The women were told to Go! And Tell! And Teach the brothers to obey what Jesus had commanded! You know what? These women were faithful. They did **GO** to the brothers They did **TELL** the brothers the good news **And** they did teach the brothers to obey Jesus' command to go to Galilee. The brothers, in turn, were faithful! They followed Jesus' command and went to Galilee.

NOTES: _____

A disciple's life is faithful – with some doubting, too!

When you hear that it's okay to have some doubts, what do you think or feel? _____

Thomas had doubts, but he could still do something. In his case, he still stuck around and hung in with the other Jesus followers. Eventually, his doubts were answered when he met Jesus. How can your doubts paralyze you? _____

What's one thing you can do to "keep moving" and take your doubts right along with you as you go? _____

Who can you turn to for help with your doubts? _____

A disciple's life is **faithful – we recognize the Lord of all**

Jesus said he has been given ALL authority. The guards and the religious leaders were fighting to hang on to their power. Rome had authority, too. What other powers are you tempted to follow instead of Jesus? _____

Pray the Lord's prayer: for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, not mine, not Netflix, not the news, yours alone, God.

What story will we tell?

As we Go!

And Tell!

And Make disciples!

What story will we tell about our life with Jesus? **We are never alone. He is Emmanuel – God with us.** The Gospel of Matthew began with the announcement... Emmanuel God with us. It ends with that same word... Jesus is God with us. We are never alone. That is a story worth telling. Now, more than ever.

DRAW IT...



Try Pastor Diane's illustration at home.

You will Need:

1. Baking Soda represents FEAR
2. White Vinegar represents JESUS
3. A Clear Jar or Glass represents YOU

When we get scared, we get filled with fear. And most of the time we have all sorts of fears at the same time. Pour a little baking soda into your glass for every one of your fears.

When fears come, they fill our glass – our body and our soul. Then fear sits in us – hanging around or even growing unless we have something to help push us past that fear.

This is where Jesus comes in to rescue us. When we fill ourselves up with Jesus (pour vinegar into your glass...) He pushes the fears that live inside of us up and out as He helps us to overcome our pesky fears.

Well, there is still a little fear left isn't there?

This is because we are human, and fear is a natural part of humanity. Fear will continue to enter our lives, and we need Jesus to help us overcome our fears over and over again. It is only with Jesus' help that we can get our fears moving up and out of our life.

Well, Pastor Diane, "how do we get more of Jesus in our jar?", You might ask. We get Jesus' help by sharing our fears with Him through prayer, and then simply asking for Him to help us. You can also ask your mom or dad or another adult you know that loves you to pray with you too.

At the very end of Matthew 28, it says, "And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus actually is always with us even when we can't see Him. Always wanting us to share our fears with Him so He can help move them up and out.

GOD OF PRESENCE & Strength

Help us feel you
here with us...

...when we are
anxious and afraid

when the future feels

UNWIELDLY

AND

UNCERTAIN

we know nothing is unknown to You

WOW GOD

we know you are our ROCK

AND OUR COMFORT in times of

TROUBLE.

Give us WISDOM and COURAGE...

...to make CHANGES that will help...

THINGS
GET
BETTER.

Amen.