

“A Reason to Hope”

Matthew 27:62-28:15

"Basically, I think hope is the ability to see a path to the future. You are facing dire circumstances, and you need to know everything that's blocking or threatening you. And then you see a path, or a potential path, to get to where you want to be. Once you see that, there's a tremendous emotional uplift that occurs."

"I think hope has been, is, and always will be the heart of medicine and healing. We could not live without hope. Even with all the medical technology available to us now, we still come back to this profound human need to believe that there is a possibility to reach a future that is better than the one in the present."

1. What they feared might happen
2. What actually happened
3. What they wanted others to believe happened
4. Why it all happened

I. What They Feared Might Happen

A. The Religious Leaders

B. Their Concern

C. Their Request

II. What Actually Happened

A. Earthquake

B. Angel of the Lord

“The life of Jesus is bracketed by two impossibilities: a virgin’s womb and an empty tomb. Jesus entered our world through a door marked “no entrance” and left through a door marked “no exit.” - Peter Larson

I. What They Feared Might Happen

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C. Reaction of the Guards

III. What They Wanted the People to Believe

A. The Conspiracy

B. Why People Deny the Resurrection

*“If you believe it happened, you have
to change the way you live.”*

-Wolfhart Pannenberg

“Dear Sister, beat your preacher with a leather whip for thirty-nine heavy strokes. Nail him to a cross. Hang him in the sun for six hours. Run a spear through his heart. Embalm him. Put him in an airless tomb for three days. Then see what happens.” - J. Vernon McGee

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IV. Why All This Happened

A. For Our Justification

Romans 4:25

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (NIV)

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B. Walk in Newness of Life

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? Far from it! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

“I cannot give in to the devil’s principal, deceitful tactic which makes so many Christians satisfied with an “Easter Celebration” instead of experiencing the power of Christ’s resurrection. It is the devil’s business to keep Christians mourning and weeping with pity beside the cross instead of demonstrating that Jesus Christ is risen, indeed.” - A.W. Tozer

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A. For Our Justification

B. Walk in Newness of Life

C. Basis of Our Hope

D. Great Encouragement in Hard Times

