

Easter Sunday 2010 *Slide Notations*

The Easter Story... That's what we call it... But it is the report of a series of events, unfolding moment by moment... On people with hopes and dreams, fears and struggles, just like us... To them the last week feels surreal in the cold morning air of that first Sunday after...

Seven days ago the crowd was pumping Him as the One, the new found King! Then just a few days ago, Thursday, He began talking seriously, eminently, about dying and us being scattered... **Then Friday, 15 hours of complete crazy!** *The arrest...* surrounded by soldiers... *The fight...* Jesus refusing to lead... *The scramble for cover...*

Then crazy gives in to insane! The holy men lying, conniving, politicking... the disciples failing, falling one by one... The yelling, the laughing, the abuse, the beating, the bruising, the bleeding... The dirt, the smell, the swelling... He doesn't look human any more! The way to Skull Hill... the hammer and nails, the spear... 6 hours in the air... And when He finished speaking, He died!

If Friday was horrifying... Saturday was all anxiety... waiting... numb... Waves of shock and fear; think of all the things we said, bridges we burned... Will they be coming for us next...? Memories of Him; things seen, things shared – *that was real wasn't it? He was real wasn't He...?*
So why is He in that tomb...?

Mark 16.1-8 Emphasized

And when the Sabbath was over Saturday evening, and the merchants were opening up for business, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went and bought spices so they could embalm Jesus body the next day. As the light of dawn was coming on Sunday morning, they were headed to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?" When they arrived they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and they walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in white. They were utterly astonished. He said, "Don't be amazed or surprised. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the one they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; He's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell His disciples and Peter that He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see Him there, exactly as He said." Without any delay, they ran from the tomb for they were trembling with fear and ecstatic at the same time. And not one of them spoke to even one person as they went because they were so bewildered by what was happening.

An Easter Perspective... The drama unfolds with their intention of preparing His body for burial... **v1** "Bought the spices, waited for light!" Very anxious to carry out their task of love and respect... **v2** "Very early in the morning!" Solving a problem on the way... **v3** Not the Roman guard, Jewish antagonists... But there was... the Stone! The very real obstacle to success!

The stone is no illusion... rock solid testimony to their complete inability to move hard things in the way of life! They weren't asking, 'How can we move it?' but 'who will?' No question this was beyond them! And when they arrived they found that the stone had already been moved... by whom?

The Answer... Already revealed, days before the need! Gentiles had beaten & mocked Him; we missed that He passed by w/o a Word! Jews had exacted their hideous plan; we didn't see the forgiveness in His

eyes! Death had seized His body and the grave closed Him in and we forgot that/what He told us in advance!

That He must suffer and die to release the power of God that death, the grave and hell couldn't stop...

And in dying for our sins then resurrecting for our lives, He gave us the power of God to move mountains!

In this life... We will all face stones that we can't move out of our way on our own power! *Stones too big to move on our own:* sinfulness, sickness, disease, addictions, weaknesses, poverty, spiritual warfare... *Stones rolled in place by others:* offences, misunderstandings, divorce, grief, abuse... *Stones around our necks:* bitterness, un-forgiveness, fear, doubt, distrust, disappointments, unfulfilled needs...

And Easter's Story 2010 tells us that the power of God is here for all who believe!