

**Sermon: 2019/04/21, 1000 (Easter Day) - *Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; &, Luke 24:1-12\_BTR***

Luke doesn't mention it, but *Matthew, Mark and John do* - and that's that when the women discovered Jesus' tomb empty on Sunday morning, and saw the stone rolled back, and an angel - *an angel!* - sitting where Jesus' dead body had been, they *ran* - they didn't walk - they *ran* as fast as they could, which was hard in a long dress(!) and a headscarf - to tell the (12) Apostles: [n.1].

(They did that because they were full of both 'great joy' [Mt. 28:8] and 'terror'. [Mk. 18:8])

They *burst* into the house where the men were hiding, and when Peter heard the news he *ran* back to the cemetery to see this shocking scene for himself! And with him *ran* another of the Disciples, (who isn't specifically named).

All this happened 'early' in the morning before the sun was high in the sky: But it was probably hot already - it was Israel - the Middle East - after all. And so to do all that 'running' was quite a difficult thing to do. Especially in (flat, leather) sandals. And on uneven roads made of hard, compacted earth. (Not kind to the ankles.)

*These days, we probably wouldn't have done all that sweaty, exhausting running around, would we?*

Instead, what would we do if we found that Jesus was missing from His tomb, and was, instead, wandering around - *alive(!)* - smelling the flowers and chatting to the gardeners?

How would we share the "Good News" in the 21st century?

[Pull out cell-phone. Wait for response.]

*Right!*

We would make a phone-call, wouldn't we?

Or, perhaps more likely - especially if you're young, we'd *send a "text"* (message).

I imagine that it might go something like this:

[Super-enlarged text message graphics on card-stock.]

- (PINK) Peter, it's Mary M.
- Whassup, Mag-da.
- Hey, why you up so early, girl!?
- (PINK) I'm at the tomb.
- The tomb?
- (PINK) The tomb.
- R u crazy? Dontcha kno the Temple police r looking for ya?
- (PINK) Please. Those cowardly rent-a-cops don't scare me.
- How can you say that? Look wha they did to J. C.!
- [Crying emoji.]
- (PINK) Well, let's just say that it didn't "take."
- Huh?
- (PINK) He's done it.
- Who's done what?
- (PINK) J. C.
- J. C.?
- (PINK) J. C. has done it.
- What's He done?
- (PINK) Beaten the grave. Conquered Satan.
- Er... you've lost me.
- (PINK) HE HAS RISEN!
- Risen?
- (PINK) Yes! [Angry emoji.]

- But... hadn't they killed Him?
- (PINK) YES! [Champagne emoji, lovestruck emoji]
- So, did He get better?
- (PINK) "Got better"?
- (PINK) Wha r u talkin 'bout? No one "gets better" from crucifixion: that's the point of it!
- Maybe they did it wrong this time?
- (PINK) Did it "wrong"? Peter, have you had your morning [coffee emoji] yet?
- It's still percolating.
- (PINK) Well, drink up! ... AND GET DOWN HERE.
- (PINK) This is gonna change everything. [Peace sign emoji.]

Let's pray, Father God, we give you thanks that you chose to raise your only Son from the grave, to validate His amazing claims, and show us that there is life-after-death by your love alone, Amen.

Jesus' resurrection really does change everything, although some of its reality won't be visible until we die / Jesus returns.

Then we will see the gift in its entirety.

And to be baptised is to prepare oneself for receiving that *amazing* gift...

Footnotes:

1. Jn. 20:2. To be precise, Mark says 'they went out and fled from the tomb [in] terror...'