

HE ISN'T HERE - March 31st 2024 - Pastor Peter

Key Verse - Main - Luke 24:1-8

"But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that He would rise again on the third day.' Then they remembered His words."

1. In the Garden

John 20:11-16 "Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. 'Dear woman, why are you crying?' the angels asked her. 'Because they have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. 'Dear woman, why are you crying?' Jesus asked her. 'Who are you looking for?' She thought He was the gardener. 'Sir,' she said, 'if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him.' 'Mary!' Jesus said. She turned to Him and cried out, 'Rabboni!' (which is Hebrew for 'Teacher')."

It's Jesus but she doesn't recognize Him.

John 20:15 "Dear woman, why are you crying?' Jesus asked her. 'Who are you looking for?'"

Jesus then makes it very personal. He connects.

John 20:16 "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to Him and cried out, 'Rabboni!' (which is Hebrew for 'Teacher')."

Jesus knows her and He reaches out.

He Wants Closeness

He always wants closeness.

God isn't distant. God isn't out of reach and God isn't out of touch. God knows your name.

Isa. 43:1,2 "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."

He Brings Security

John 10:27,28 "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand."

No one can take us from Him.

2. On the Road

Luke 24:21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel."

Luke 24:28-32 "By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if He were going on, but they begged Him, 'Stay the night with us, since it is getting late.' So He went home with them. As they sat down to eat, He took the bread and blessed it. Then He broke it and gave it to them.Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And at that moment He disappeared! They said to each other, 'Didn't our hearts burn within us as He talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?'"

The God who extends invitations also accepts invitations. We can invite Him into our lives. We can invite Him into our situation. We can invite Him into our problems. We can invite Him into our disappointment.

Questions:

- 1.. Why did Jesus accept the invitation from the disciples in the road to Emmaus?
- 2. Why do think God is willing to accept our invitations?

3.. Have you invited God into your life? Is there any area of your life you haven't invited him into?

He is with you always. And He makes this promise,

Heb. 13:5 "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

3. In The Room

John 20:19-21 "That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! 'Peace be with you,' He said. As he spoke, He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again He said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you.'"

Jesus appears to His disciples and He stands right in the middle of the room.

John 20:21 "As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you."

The very first time that He meets with His group of followers after the resurrection. He says, 'in the same way the Father sent Me to radically change the course of the history of this world, I am sending you.'

We're sent just like Jesus is sent. And we're to go in the same resurrection power.

Rom. 8:11 "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE THIS WEEK?

Questions:

Questions.
1. What was the mission that the father sent Jesus to do?
2. Why is he sending us now to do the same?
3. How can we accomplish this mission?