

## SERMON NOTES FOR EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021

### WHAT SAY YOU? (*What is your verdict?*) – MATT 28:1-15

<sup>1</sup> Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. *Matthew 28:1-2 (NKJV)*

- This Morning You are a member of the jury in the case of “The People vs. Jesus of Nazareth.”
- For centuries, the case has been prosecuted based on one of three theories:
  - The Swoon Theory -
  - The Kidnap Theory -
  - The Hallucination Theory –
- The Defense: “The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth”
  - Eyewitnesses:
    - a) The Gospel Writers: Matthew Mark, Luke and John
    - b) The Roman Centurion – Mark 15:39
    - c) Other Soldiers – John 19:31-35
    - d) The Burial Party – John 19:38-40

### 1. THE DISPLACED STONE

<sup>41</sup> Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>42</sup> So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby. *John 19:41-42 (NKJV)*

- Another witness Mary Magdalene – John 20:1

### 2. THE EMPTY TOMB

<sup>2</sup> Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.” <sup>3</sup> Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, <sup>7</sup> and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. *John 20:2-9 (NKJV)*

### ➤ Why was the tomb empty?

- Jesus had not died and got out of the tomb on His own power?
- Jesus died and someone took His body.
  - His enemies –
  - His friends -

### 3. THE GRAVE CLOTHES

<sup>3</sup> Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, <sup>7</sup> and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. *John 20:3-8 (NKJV)*

### ➤ “Saw” – John 20:5, 6, 8

<sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. *John 20:9 (NKJV)*

<sup>10</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. *Psalms 16:10 (NKJV)*

### 4. THE CLOSING ARGUMENT

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. *1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NKJV)*

### 5. WHAT SAY YOU? – WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?