

# Alive to Defeat Our Fears

Matthew 28:1-10

## 1 We all have them!

They wake us up in the middle of the night covered in sweat and trembling.

They haunt us in the quiet moments of our days like an itch we can't scratch.

They nudge us every time we get comfortable.



We all have them!

## 2 I'm talking about our fears.

We can call them **nagging** thoughts, **parental** concerns, **financial** worries, or those outright terrifying **fears** that ...

paralyze us, immobilize us, and terrorize our un-busy moments and our sleepless nights.

So what do we do with these fears?



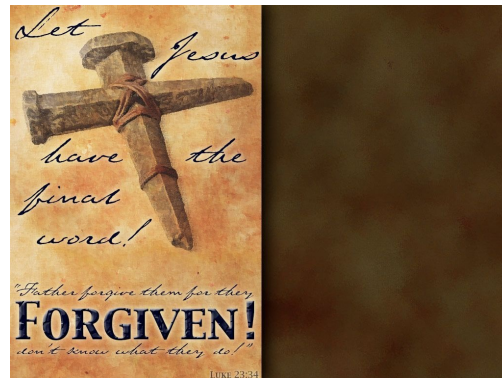
Fears!  
We all have them!

## 3 We bring them to the cross ... of course!

We bring them to the cross? Of course?

Is this just another glib Christian cliché? Do we know what this means and how to do it?

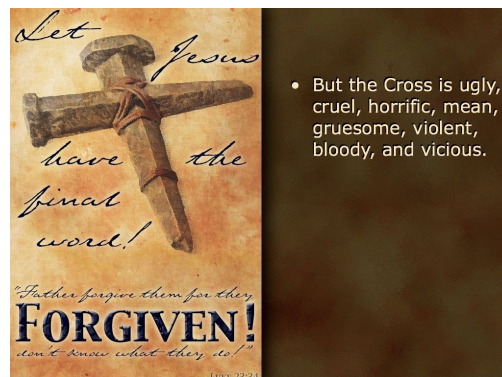
Yes, the Cross is our place of forgiveness and where we see God's love ...



## 4 But the Cross is ugly, cruel, horrific, mean, gruesome, violent, bloody, & vicious!

Crucifixion was only for the lowest class of scum in Roman society, the vilest of humans, the worst of criminals.

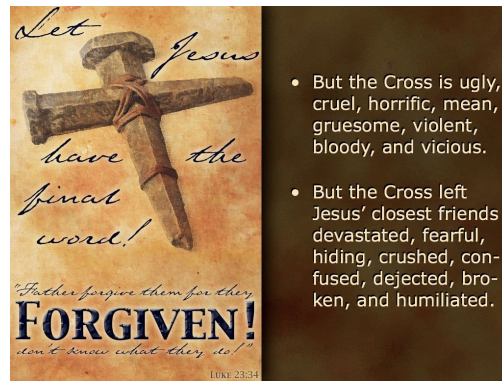
The word crucify - **staurow** - couldn't even be used in polite society, it was considered crude. **A stumbling and foolishness to Jews & non-Jews alike!**



- 5 The Cross left Jesus' closest **friends & followers devastated**, fearful, hiding, crushed, **dejected**, humiliated, **confused**, and **broken**.

At the moment of crucifixion, none of Jesus' followers would have said, "Bring your fears to the cross, of course!"

No, the cross was the source of all of their fears, their hopelessness, their sense of being defeated.

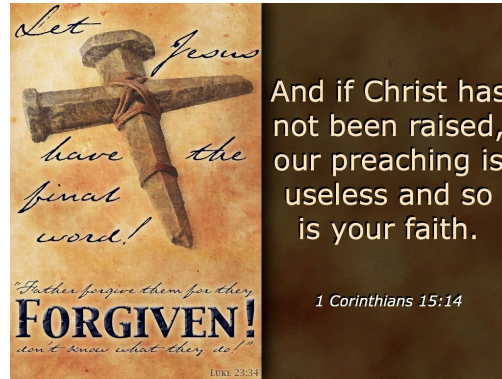


- But the Cross is ugly, cruel, horrific, mean, gruesome, violent, bloody, and vicious.
- But the Cross left Jesus' closest friends devastated, fearful, hiding, crushed, confused, dejected, broken, and humiliated.

- 6 Without resurrection, crucifixion is death of hope, death of faith, & death of God!

Yes, that sounds extreme and dramatic, but listen to Paul from **1Cor 15:14** - *And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.*

So where do we go with our fears? What do we do with our hopelessness?



And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:14

- 7 We join two **ladies** on their way to the **tomb** of Jesus in **Matthew 28:1-10**. Listen carefully! See how to move from all consuming fear to life.

All consuming fear!

**26:62-66 28:4,11-15** Power/Position

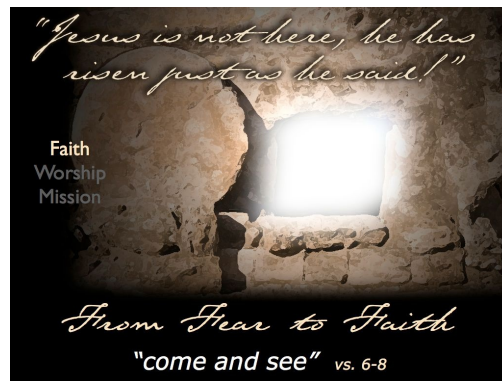
**vs.5,8,10** women, personal agony!



- 8 The first move is from fear to **faith!**

The ladies are **INVITED** to remember Jesus' words, *"He is not here. He has risen just as he said! Come and see the place where he lay."*

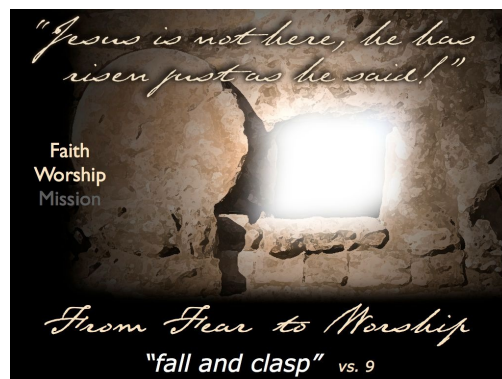
They knew that place well, **27:61** they had seen him placed there in death by Joseph & Nicodemus! **Could it be, the place of heartbreak & fear can become the place of joy & victory?**



- 9 **2nd move away from fear is worship!** 2 fall in worship & clasp Jesus feet **vs.9**. **INCLUDED** tangible presence of Jesus.

"Some among you may desire to be like these faithful women. You too may wish to take hold of the feet of Jesus. You can even now ... but also even more fully on that day when you shall see him coming with unspeakable glory, with a multitude of angels." Chrysostom

2 women remind of promise **Mt 18:20** & want to **INCLUDE** us at Jesus' feet!

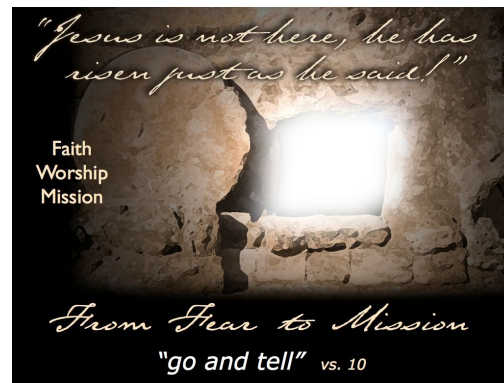


10 3rd move away from fear is **mission!**

*Go and tell!* vs. 10

Fearful up to this point - **vs.5,8,10**

As they become **INVOLVED** in Jesus' mission **vs.7**, they are assured of Jesus' presence **vs.10**, and so are we **vs.20**.

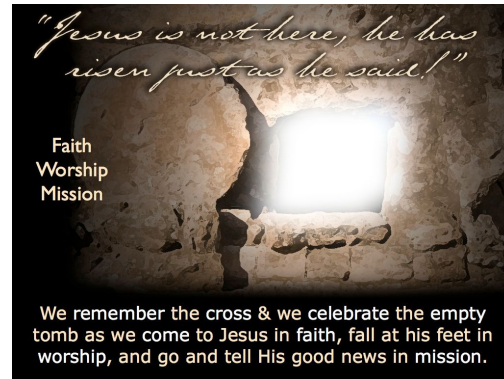


11 Resurrection Sunday is our reminder!

Yes, we remember the **cross** & are thankful for Jesus' sacrifice!

But we **celebrate** the **empty** tomb!  
Victory of all victories. Basis of all hope.  
Ultimate answer for all fears!

We come to rekindle our **faith**, fall at Jesus' feet in **worship**, & commit to go tell this goodnews as our **mission**.



- 12 2 women trudged in darkness to tomb. Heartbroken, devastated, & confused. Jesus met them & everything changed... They **INVITE** us to empty tomb, they want 2 **INCLUDE** us at the feet of **LORD**, & **INVOLVE** us in telling this goodnews. And as we we join them, we **discover** that Jesus is **alive** and He is **with** us! Our Lord, Jesus, is not dead! He's left the tomb! He's alive. And he's with us chasing our fears away!

