



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

The Early Church Series, Lesson 49

Lesson Title: The King of Life

Take Home Point: Jesus is alive, so we can be spiritually alive!

Warm-Up:

Imagine a man shipwrecked on an island. Desperate to find a way off, he decides to build a walkway to the mainland a fistful of sand at a time. The sea in the lagoon is calm, and, after many days, he can see progress and feels good about his efforts. A few days later, a boat arrives; a rescuer jumps out and says, "This boat was sent for you! Hop in!" The man replies, "It's too good to be true. That may be a good boat for you, but I must trust my own efforts and keep working on my walkway." The sailor encourages him to come, but the man can't believe someone would rescue him. He dies lost, because he never accepted the offer of the one who overcame the sea to rescue him.

Read: Matthew 28:1-10

Observation (What happened?):

What were the four words of command the angel told to the women? What were the two words of command Jesus told the women?

What was the message the angel gave the women to tell the disciples?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Do you think Jesus needed the angel to roll the stone away in order to leave the tomb? Why was the angel sent to do that?

According to Colossians 3:1, since Jesus is alive, what happens to us?

Insight:

In a poem of the cross, Thomas Kelly wrote:

"Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great;
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed, Son of Man and Son of God."

Only Jesus could accept the wages of sin on our behalf – that was why he died for us – but his death was only prelude to his resurrection. His redemptive work was completed when he rose again, for that destroyed the power of sin and death. We are brought back to life with him! The one who overcame is not only our savior; He's our shepherd, our loving guide leading us to the heaven he has prepared for us!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

As a shepherd preparing to guide your small group, you have "come and seen" that Jesus is alive. Who is God calling you to "go and tell" about life in him this week?

How do you know you are alive in Jesus Christ? Can you think of some indications described in the Bible that apply to you?