

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet Jesus the Sacrifice ... Series, Lesson 48

Lesson Title: Jesus Is Alive!

Take Home Point: Don't panic – Jesus is alive!

Warm-Up:

If you have flown often, you know the crew's preparations are always the same. While making sure we were all buckled into our seats, one of the attendants would read through the safety announcement. Of course the safety procedures are serious business, but I was always amused by one part: "In the event the cabin loses pressure, oxygen masks will drop from a compartment above you. Pull the mask toward you, place it on your head using the elastic strap, and continue to breathe normally." It was that last part that always amused me; how likely was it that we would breathe normally in such a situation?!

Read: Mark 15:42-16:7

Observation (What happened?):

How did Joseph of Arimathea, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome all visibly demonstrate their love for Jesus?

What was the first thing the angel said to the women?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the angel was sitting in the tomb?

Why was the tomb empty? Who rolled away the stone?

Insight:

It seems straightforward enough, but for Jesus to come alive again he had to have died in the first place. Unfortunately, there are many ideas receiving attention that attempt to explain what happened without Jesus dying on the cross. One is that Jesus swooned on the cross and was buried alive only to revive in the coolness of the tomb. Another is that it wasn't really Jesus on the cross but a clever substitute, so that Jesus could show himself as alive after the crucifixion. But all of these are Satan-driven denials of hard spiritual realities. The wages of our sin is death. If Jesus didn't die, that penalty is not paid and we are still doomed. But that is only part of what we need. While his death paid the price for our sins, it was his resurrection that destroyed the power of death and frees us to live a life of confidence that we will be alive with God forever in heaven. Both his death and resurrection were required in real physical and spiritual terms to complete the redemptive work that Jesus came to earth to accomplish.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What might your reaction have been if you were one of the women who saw the empty tomb and heard the angel's words?

In what area of your life do you need to let Jesus teach you to not panic or be alarmed?