

GONE

"(v.1) Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to see the tomb. (v.2) Suddenly there was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. (v.3) His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. (v.4) The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

(v.5) Then the angel spoke to the women. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. (v.6) He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. (v.7) And now, go quickly and tell his disciples he has been raised from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember, I have told you."

Matthew 28:1-7

New Living Translation

Mark's account (Mark 16:6) is very similar.

Luke's account (Luke 24:3-6) is also very similar.

John's account (John 20:1-10) includes a similar part to Mark's and Matthew's, but John adds 3 intensely personal encounters with Mary Magdalene, the Disciples, and with Thomas (John 20:11-29).

What Is Gone?

1- *Barriers* to God!

The instant Jesus died, the curtain in the temple was miraculously torn.

This curtain had separated the innermost part of the temple from all people except the high priest, and he could enter only once a year. But in tearing this curtain, God signified that Jesus' sacrificial death removed the *barrier* and opened the way to give people direct access to him.

2-The *Power* of Death!

"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

II Timothy 1:9b-10 (NIV)

3-The *Paralysis* of Fear!

"I cried out to the LORD in my suffering, and he heard me.

He set me free from all my fears. For the angel of the LORD
guards all who fear him, and he rescues them."

Psalm 34:6-7 (NLT)

What Is left?

The **Accurate** Savior

"Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He has risen from the dead! Don't you *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 the third day?"

Luke 24:5b-7

(NLT)

The **Mighty** Christ!

"(v.1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us *strip off every weight* that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us *run with endurance* the race that God has set before us. (v.2) We do this by *keeping our eyes on Jesus*, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. (v.3) *Think about all he endured* when sinful people did such terrible things to him, *so that you don't become weary and give up.*"

Hebrews 12:1-3

(NLT)

The **Compassionate** Christ

"(v.28) The Jesus said, '*Come to me*, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and *I will give you rest*. (v.29) Take my yoke upon you. *Let me teach you*, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls. (v.30) For my yoke fits perfectly, and the burden I give you is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

(NLT)

Easter '09:

Leave Your fears here:

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Pick up your new strategies now:

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4.12.09; RJB