

Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: He is NOT Here! **Series:** Easter 2023...4

Text: Mark 16:1 - 8 and Matthew 28:1 - 8

Purpose: I want to PURSUADE my congregation that the RISEN Jesus Christ is present with us in our earthly walk!

A reminder of Good Friday's devotional entitled:

Views of the Cross (A Kaliedoscope)!

- ~ 1. What the Religious and Political Leaders Saw
- ~ 2. What Mary, the Family and Friends Saw
- ~ 3. What the Disciples Saw
- ~ 4. What the Two Thieves Saw

Can you imagine being with the disciples for those last eight days:

- ~ entering Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday;
- ~ being present at the last supper;
- ~ present when Judas betrayed Christ Jesus;
- ~ present at a distance as Christ Jesus was illegally tried and beaten;
- ~ present along the Via Dolorosa;
- ~ present at the crucifixion;
- ~ and now present at the tomb

1. He is NOT in the Tomb:

~ Mark 16:6 - 8, *"And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. (7) But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." (8) And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."*

~ Matthew 28:5 - 7, *"But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. (6) He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. (7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.""*

~ Christ Jesus is present with us in our bewilderment!

2. He IS in the Upper Room:

~ John 20:19 - 22, *"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (20) When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (21) Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

~ Christ Jesus is present with us in our fears and He desires to speak 'peace' and anoint us with the Holy Spirit.

3. He is ON the Beach:

~ John 21:1 - 14

~ John 21:9 - 10 & 12 - 13, *"When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid on it, and bread. (10) Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." (12) Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. (13) Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish."*

~ Christ Jesus is present with us in our confusion and frustration, ready to meet our needs!

4. He IS Caught Up to Glory:

~ Acts 1:8 - 11, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (9) And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. (10) And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, (11) and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

~ John 16:7 - 11, *"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. (8) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; (10) concerning judgment, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; (11) concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."*

~ Christ Jesus empowers us with the Holy Spirit and He is present in us Colossians 1:27!

5. He IS Coming Again:

~ Revelation 22:7 - 21

~ Titus 2:11 - 14, *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."*

~ Christ Jesus is present in His promises to us which are our hope!

Conclusion: