

24, 2nd Season
#1: You've Been Told
April 7-9, 2007

¹After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." ¹¹While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹²When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day. *Matthew 28:1-15 TNIV*

Introduction: In the first 24 hours following Jesus' resurrection, God conquered death and established a new relationship with humanity. On the day Jesus rose from death, Satan was bound and we were set free by God's mission.

- I. New Day
 - A. On the first day of the week following Jesus' execution, women who cared for him went to visit his tomb. (v.1)
 - B. An earthquake shook the region. (v.2a)

- C. An angel of the Lord removed the stone from Jesus' tomb and sat upon it. (v.2b)
 - D. The angel was radiant white, a frightening spectacle for the guards stationed to monitor the tomb. (vv.3-4)
- II. New Orders
 - A. The angel notified the women that Jesus had risen from death and was not in the tomb, inviting them to see for themselves. (vv.5-6)
 - B. The angel gave the women new orders: "Go and tell the disciples to meet Jesus at the rendezvous point in Galilee." (v.7a)
 - C. Now, Jesus' followers had been told. (v.7b)
- III. New Direction
 - A. The women hurried away, afraid yet joyful, to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. (v.8)
 - B. Jesus met them along the way to reinforce the orders given to the women. (v.9-10)
 - C. When the women saw Jesus arisen for the very first time, they worshiped him. (v.9)
- IV. New Deceptions (or *Resurrectiongate*, vv.11-15)
 - A. Afraid of new possibilities and new life, the chief priests devised a scheme to cover up the truth.
 - B. They bought the silence of the guards who had witnessed the empty tomb with bribes.
 - C. Then as now, some were all too happy to be deceived by a convenient story.

Conclusion: Like those first witnesses to the empty tomb, we have been told. We know that forgiveness and reconciliation with God are offered to us in the cross, and that new life is available to us in the empty tomb. What will we do with this new information?

NOTES: _____

