



HE HAS RISEN!

How Will You Respond This Easter?

If we look across cultures and centuries, people have buried their dead in some fascinating ways.

The world of Jesus had its own burial practices. Bodies were wrapped in linen. Spices were used to slow the decay. The body was placed in a cave-like tomb. And then a heavy stone was rolled into place.

Once that stone was set, no one expected it to move again. And in Jesus' case, it went even further. The tomb wasn't just closed—it was

secured. A Roman seal was placed on the stone, placing it under the authority of Rome itself. Guards were posted.

The women who came to the tomb that first Easter didn't come looking for a risen Savior—they came to complete a burial. But when they arrived—the stone had been rolled away. Not so Jesus could get out—but so they could come in. And we are invited to come in as well... to see the miracle of Easter... and hear the announcement: **He has risen!**

And the question is— **how will you respond?**

The message of Easter is both simple and staggering: **He has risen!** The question is: *How will you respond this Easter?*

Easter invites us to draw near.

The sealed tomb said, *Stay Away*. Easter says, *Come and See*.

These were the words of the angel in **verse 6**.

The point is this: Easter doesn't shy away from investigation, it invites it!

Jesus' resurrection isn't believed blindly, but through reasonable faith.

Many throughout history didn't start with belief—but with questions.

Some even set out to disprove the resurrection and ended up in belief.

A committed atheist and Oxford professor named C.S. Lewis did.

An unbelieving journalist for the Chicago Tribune, Lee Strobel, did.

A cold-case homicide detective, J. Warner Wallace, did.

A leading scientist, Francis Collins, did.

Heaven's halls are filled with those who responded to the invitation, *Come.. and See.*

Easter calls us to bow down.

This was the response of the women that morning.

When they left the tomb, Jesus met them... and they worshipped him.

This is one of the clearest signs we've encountered the risen Christ.

Because when we truly meet him... we bow in worship.

It changes us. We can't go back to way we were before.

We surrender our time. Our schedules. Our finances. Our entire lives.

Easter sends us to speak out.

“Go and tell”—that was the message given to the women.

In other words, what happened at Easter is worth talking about!

It's too good to keep to ourselves.

Easter sends us to speak out—about what Christ has done for all... and what Christ has done for us.

He has risen! So how will you respond? Will you draw near or stay at a distance? Will you bow down or stay in control? Will you speak out or stay silent? Every response leads somewhere. If you draw near—it leads to relationship. If you bow down—it leads to transformation. If you speak out—it leads to mission. On that first Easter, no one walked away unchanged. And

*that hasn't changed. At some point—you must
respond.*

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