

Easter 2026

4-5-26

## God Spoke Resurrection

### I. Slide1a **Announce:**

A. Welcome to those watching Online **9AM**.

B. Prayer:

### II. **Intro:** *God Spoke Resurrection*

A. Where **Death** Thought It Had *The Last Word*, **God Spoke Resurrection!**

B. **Closed!** - that's a harsh word.

1. **It's like** pulling into a *Chick-fil-A* parking lot ... on a Sunday! **Closed!**
2. **A little more serious** - you're late for a flight, running through the airport. You get to the counter and you find out that **"the cabin door has been Closed!"** - you're **not** getting on.

3. **Most Serious**, The female disciples (Mary & Mary) saw Jesus' tomb **Closed** / sealed shut. *Most likely the end of their hopes, dreams, and faith.*

C. **Slide1b** Hey **kids**, can I get your help today? - Whenever you hear me say the word **Closed** - I want you to say, **But not the End!** - Deal?/Let's try it [**Closed, but not the end!**]

D. **But Heaven saw** something different. *What looked like a burial chamber was actually a birthing chamber.*

1. **LIFE** was about to break forth from **the darkness**.
2. The tomb **wasn't** the end of the story, it was **the womb of resurrection**. **Life was about to break forth.** (great-niece)

E. The disciples saw only *darkness, silence, and a stone* that marked the **end**. **But God** was quietly at work in *that hidden place*, bringing forth the greatest miracle of all.

1. From **death** came **life**, from **despair** came **hope**, **and** from the grave came **glory**.

F. **Slide1c Big Idea:** What looks like *the end* to us is often the place where **God** is about to bring *new life*.

G. Transition: You've had moments in your life where something felt... **CLOSED** pause. It felt **Final**. It felt **Over**. - That's exactly where **the disciples** were.

1. **But** what they thought was **the end**... was actually **the beginning**.

### III. Slide2a **1 WHAT THEY SAW - A CLOSED TOMB**

A. **Text:** Matthew 27:59-61 *And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.*

1. A stone rolled in place. **W/a Roman seal**. **W/Guards posted**. **Jesus dead**.

B. There's a famous painting of Jesus after the crucifixion, and it's unsettling. [*Hans Holbein the younger*, the 16th cent German Painter, known for his striking realism and eye for detail]

1. He **doesn't** look peaceful. He looks completely **lifeless**. **Cold**. **Still**. **Gone**.

2. It forces the question: **What does faith do, when all you can see is death?**

a) Ps: **Dostoevsky** (the great 19 cent Russian novelist) **was so transfixed w/the painting, his wife Anna was afraid the shock might provoke one of his epileptic seizures. He had to face a God that entered death fully, before conquering it.**

C. **That's Holy Saturday**. The day where nothing moves. Nothing changes. The tomb is still **closed**.

1. **And** that's where many people **lose faith**, not in the celebration, **but** in the silence.

D. **But Easter reminds us** - just because God is **silent**... **doesn't mean** He is **absent**.

1. That same body that **lay lifeless**, **rose in glory on the third day**.

E. **Slide2b Faith** isn't just believing when the stone is rolled away, it's trusting God while it's still in place.

F. **What it must have felt like:** Hope / buried. **Dreams / shattered**. Faith / shaken.

1. They weren't expecting resurrection. They were preparing for permanence.
2. We all have "closed tomb" moments: A relationship that's over. A diagnosis that changes everything. A prayer that feels unanswered.
3. Sometimes what feels final to you, feels completely different to God.

G. The Flatline Story: We've all seen on TV, someone standing in a hospital room as doctors worked on a loved one. Machines beeping, medical staff hustling, tension in the air. And then suddenly - everything stopped! The monitor went flat, and that long-steady-tone just hung in the air.

1. In that moment, everyone knew what that meant. Final. Over. Nothing more to be done. - But then - after, what felt like forever - someone yelled, "Wait!!!" - A pulse came back. The line that had gone flat, started moving again. [what everyone thought was the end, wasn't the end]
  - a) On Good Friday the world heard the flatline. On Easter morning, God said, 'Wait!!!'

#### IV. Slide3a 2 WHAT HEAVEN SAW - GOD AT WORK IN THE HIDDEN PLACE

A. Matthew 28:2 *Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.* (Here's God moving before they arrive) *2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.*

1. Here's what's key: God was already working / when it looked silent.
  - a) The greatest miracle happened out of sight. [kids: ever plant seeds before?]
2. Remember: Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean God isn't doing it.
  - a) God often works: In silence. In darkness. In hidden places.
  - b) Slide3b God does some of His greatest work in places that feel the most empty

#### V. Slide4a 3 WHAT CHANGED EVERYTHING - GOD SPOKE

A. Resurrection wasn't gradual, it was decisive.

1. Death didn't lose slowly, God overruled it instantly.

2. **Death** had a voice... **but God** had the final word.
3. Remember: The stone wasn't moved to *let Jesus out*, it was moved to *let them see in*. [Mt.28:5,6 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**]  
 a) Slide4b When God speaks, what was *sealed*... **opens!**

## VI. Slide5a **4 WHAT IT MEANS FOR US - RESURRECTION STILL SPEAKS**

- A. If Jesus actually got up and walked out of the grave .... **Then know everything is going to be alright!** :)
- B. Today the same God still speaks into: *Dead places. Broken situations. Hopeless circumstances.*
  1. The resurrection is **not** just something **God did** - it's something **God still does**.
    - a) Bringing **Peace** into *anxiety*. **Restoring** what *feels lost*. Giving **Purpose** where there was *emptiness*.
- C. Slide5b \*If God can **speak life** into a tomb... He can **speak life** into **your** situation.
- D. Slide6 **Quick Recap**: I'll ask the 1st part - you answer the 2nd.
  1. What They Saw? - **Closed**. [but not the end!]
  2. What Heaven Saw? - God Working.
  3. What God Did? - Spoke Life.
  4. What It Means? - Still True Today.
  5. What You Do? - Respond.

## VII. Slide7 **5 THE INVITATION - DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?**

- A. Jesus didn't just rise for grown-ups, He rose for *Kids, Teenagers*, **and Adults!**
- B. John 11:25-27 *Jesus said to her* (Martha), "*I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he **die**, yet shall he **live**, 26 and everyone who lives*

and *believes in me shall never die* (sp.). **Slide8 Do you believe this?** 27 She said to him, *“Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”*

1. Do **YOU believe** this? - 1 Jn.5:13 *I write these things to you who **believe in the name of the Son of God**/Jesus, **that** you may **know** that you **have eternal life**.* [Do you know that you have eternal life?]

C. Invitation:

D. Keywords: Resurrection, death, life.