



“Mixed Emotions”

Matthew 28:1-10 | 04.09.23

Sermon Recap

- The two Mary’s who approached the tomb on Easter morning experienced a mixture of emotions: fear, great joy, and more fear. They are shocked by the unexpected twist of events (i.e., an angelic appearance and empty tomb).
- Many of us continue to approach Easter with mixed emotions, but instead of being shocked at the possibility that the tomb might be empty, we might fear the exact opposite (i.e., what if it didn’t happen? What if there is no hope?).
- Whether our fear is that the tomb is empty or that maybe it is not, the message of Easter is still the same: Do not be afraid; let joy win.
- The message of Easter is not just about believing in a historical event, it is about the hope that Christ is with us, just as he promised his disciples that he would be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What is your *least* favorite Easter candy?
2. Can you think of an experience in your life that left you with extremely mixed emotions? If so, are you willing to share with the group?
3. What speaks to you from this week’s message? What challenges you, inspires you, or confuses you?
4. How are you able to relate to the moments of great joy that the women experience in the midst of their fear? In your own words, what does it look like to “let joy win” when it seems it is outweighed by fear?
5. How have you witnessed God’s grace recently?
6. How can we pray for you?