

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

### *Triumph Over Idols*

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*April 4th, 2021*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** How are you celebrating Easter this year? Do you have any Easter traditions in your family?

**Reading:** Matthew 28:1-10

#### **Outline:**

- I. Easter is good news over idols. (v. 1-6)
  - a. The good news of Easter is that Jesus conquered every idol through the resurrection.
  - b. On Easter, Jesus delivered on his promise, just as he always said he would. While idols will ultimately fail us, God always delivers.  
**Q: *What is significant about the angel's words in these verses?***
- II. Easter is good news over cynicism. (v. 7-8)
  - a. Cynicism is a temptation that many of us face, but at Easter, we see that our cynicism is destroyed. We see that darkness does not get the last word.
  - b. The good news of Easter invites us to trust in God's overwhelming power.  
**Q: *Why do you think the women felt both fear and joy in this moment?***
- III. Easter is good news over death. (v. 9-10)
  - a. If we are in Jesus, death is not the end for us. Jesus lives with us now and through eternity.
  - b. Jesus's death is our salvation, His victory is our victory, and His resurrection is a preview of our resurrection.  
**Q: *How do the women react to seeing Jesus again?***

#### **Reflection/Application Questions:**

- 1) How can we remember the good news of Easter despite all the bad news we hear every day?
- 2) Does the resurrection shape your understanding of how the power of God compares to the idols we hold? How does the promise of Easter compare to the promises of idols?
- 3) Have you ever dealt with the temptation of cynicism? How can we view cynicism in light of Easter?
- 4) We believe in God's power to conquer even death itself. In what ways can you see God's power working in your life today?
- 5) How has the good news of the resurrection impacted the way you live?

#### **Suggestions for further study:**

- Revelation 1:17-18 **Q: *How is John's encounter similar to the women's encounter with Jesus?***
- Romans 8:11 **Q: *How does this verse remind us of God's power working in our lives?***
- Romans 6:8-11 **Q: *How does this relate to the idea of Easter as the good news over death?***

**Closing Prayer:** Jesus, we thank you for fulfilling your promise when you rose from the dead. You conquered all the idols that will fail us. You conquered things that would prevent us from knowing you. Through the resurrection, you have given us the victory. You have given us hope and a new life because you did not stay dead. You beat death, rose again, and you invite us to put our trust in you. Help us to look to you always, Jesus. Amen.