

Jesus 101

“Grace Thoughts”



IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE,
YOU ARE FREE INDEED!
JOHN 8:36

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.” –Matthew 28:6

It was the Easter weekend worship service and it was time for the children’s story. Many children went up to the platform, and the children’s pastor handed each of them a plastic Easter egg, but they were not to open it until she told them to. I was wondering what the lesson was about. When she gave the signal, all the children expectantly opened their eggs at the same time. I could see confusion and disappointment in their faces. “Are you surprised?” she asked and then added, “They are empty! And so was the tomb of Jesus!” I never forgot that visual aid.

When the two Marys came to the tomb, they were more than surprised! They must have been terrified, because the first thing the angel said to them was “Do not be afraid” (Matthew 28:5), and then he added “I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified” (verse 5). “The One who was crucified” would forever become the identity of Jesus, yet the crucified One had risen from the dead! “He is not here, for He has risen” (verse 6). Amazing news! That the tomb was *empty* would become a core proclamation of the Christian church. Two elements are present in the explanation that follows: “He is not here, for He has risen, *just as He said*. Come, see the place where He was lying” (verse 6). First, Jesus had risen, as He had told them ahead of time; He had made specific predictions about His death and resurrection (Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19; see also 26:32), but His disciples had not understood. Second, the angel invited the women to see the place where He had been lying, which is significant because these two women had been present when the body of Jesus was placed inside the tomb and the large stone was rolled against its entrance (Matthew 27:59–61). Following this, the angel commissions these women as the first proclaimers of the astonishing news of resurrection. They are to tell the disciples that He is risen and let them know that He will meet with them in Galilee (Matthew 28:7), *just as He said* ahead of time (see Matthew 26:32). Yes! Our God was wounded for our transgressions, dying for our sins. But He is now alive and is coming soon to take us with Him (Matthew 24:30, 31), *just as He said!*