The Resurrection

Introduction: The first Easter Sunday was so good because the day before had been so bad. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and Easter Sunday the resurrection. The Saturday in between commemorates desperation. On that Saturday it seems that Christ was totally defeated as his body lay utterly dead in a rock tomb. The spear had sliced his heart and his tongue had gone silent. Death was absolute. No one was betting on resurrection. In The Story we will see how we can get unstuck from Saturday and move into Sunday. Turn in The Story to Matthew 27:62-64.

I. Saturday was a no hope, no courage day.

A. While Jesus' opponents celebrated his death, his disciples were hiding in fear that they, too, would receive a cross.

1. The disciples hid behind closed doors in fear.

2. The disciples did not trust Jesus' promises of a resurrection. Mark 8:21; 9:31; 10:24

B. The women disciples did not intend to celebrate Jesus' resurrection body, but to embalm his dead body. Mark 16:2-3

Application: We, too, can easily get stuck in Saturday, living with a Saturday state of mind—no hope, no courage, no plans, believing that death is the final end. Everyone dies, but we try to avoid that reality. We brush our teeth, eat good foods, pay our bills, raise our kids. Romeo and Juliet died, JFK died, Princess Diana died. Love gets buried in a tomb, poetry gets buried in a tomb. Is this all there is? Max Lucado tells the story of his brother, D. D was an outgoing, friend-making, joy-bringing kind of guy. D was a personal ambassador for his shy, younger brother, Max. In his teen years D met a bootlegger and alcohol trapped D. For four decades D drank away his health, his friends, his jobs and his money. At age 54 D made a serious decision to join AA. His life and marriage stabilized, but the years of alcohol and smoking 3 packs a day left D in very fragile health. He began to have chest pains. He was rushed to the emergency room by ambulance. By the time his wife, Donna, arrived with one of their sons, D was gone. They went in to see his now dead body. One of his hands was resting on his thigh with his fingers curled in the international sign language form of "I love you." Max knows why D did that. He had moved out of Saturday into Sunday; out of desperation into hope; out of fear into courage. By God's grace D moved from Saturday to Sunday.

II. Sunday—resurrection day—is a day of eternal love, life and hope.

A. Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb stuck in a Saturday state of mind. John 20:10-18

1. The empty tomb did not take away her despair and grief.

2. The angels did not take away her despair and grief.

3. Mary Magdalene, the one Jesus befriended and delivered from demonic oppression, had the sadness of Saturday covering her heart.

B. Jesus, alive from the dead, meets with Mary Magdalene, calling her by name.

1. Mary thought wrongly that Jesus was the gardener.

2. When everyone thought Jesus was dead, no one called him "Lord" except one—Mary Magdalene.

3. Jesus speaks Mary's name and she realizes that Jesus, her Lord, is alive from the dead.

Application: Why did Jesus personally appear to Mary Magdalene? Because that is just the kind of person Jesus is. He is full of mercy and full of compassion. Are you in a season of darkness? This could be a good season for you. During the times we are stuck in Saturday God does not get ticked off with us. God is patient with us. Sh, be quiet and listen, Jesus is also calling you by name. The calendar in the coffee-break room of heaven is stuck on Sunday.

It's Sunday. It's Sunday. God is inviting you to move from a Saturday state of mind into Sunday. The choice is yours.