

INTRODUCE

Well, good morning Fathom Church!

Hey, if you have your Bibles, and I hope you do,

- please grab them and turn to Matthew chapter 28.
- You can open a phone or a tablet to Matthew 28,
- or you can use one of the hard-backed black bibles
 - under every single chair.
 - You'll find Matthew 28 on page **835**.

A big welcome to our friends and family joining us online!

- You can click that bible tab on your screen to find Matthew 28,
- and if you would, just say hi in the chat
 - so we know you're here with us today!

ILLUSTRATION: HONEYMOON

Now, it's Easter, and so I know we have a bunch of people who are newer and don't know me well, so let me introduce myself.

My name is Chris Martin and I'm the Lead Pastor here at Fathom.

- I'm married to Maryse...and we have one daughter, Harper.

Maryse and I met in college, at Colorado Christian University! Go Cougs!

- Or how it's known around our house...
 - the Harvard of the West.

And this summer we are celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary.

- So, yeah, that's pretty good!
- 15 years of marriage.

But let me tell you, our marriage didn't start off the way we expected it to.

For our honeymoon, we went to Mexico...

- or how it's known around our house...
- the Hawaii that we could afford.

And on our second day there, we sign up to take a Jeep tour of the island.

- So, they pull up with 8 Jeep Wranglers,
 - with no tops on them.
- And we get in our Jeep and start driving.
- Well, what they failed to mention...
 - was that they weren't providing water for us...
 - and we didn't have any...
 - aaaand Mexico's not really the place...
 - where you just fill up your Nalgene!

So, we're in this Jeep...

- with no top on...
- in 100-degree heat...
- and 90% humidity...
- with no water...
- for like 8 hours.

And y'all, look at me!

- I'm pretty white...
- Like, Larry Bird white...ok?
- I'm like a 2 shades away from being "clear"...
- so, the sun and I have an understanding.

Well, I came back more sunburned and dehydrated that I've ever been!

So, that night at about midnight...

- I got up to use the bathroom...
 - and it must have been the combo of the sunburn
 - and the dehydration,
- but I'm just standing in the bathroom...
 - and I pass out.
 - I just keel over
 - and slam my head on the vanity.
 - Out cold!

And Maryse comes running into the bathroom,

- two days into this marriage,
- and finds her husband on the floor
- with my eyes rolled back in my head,
- shaking a bit.

And I come to, and say,

- "Please don't take me to a Mexican hospital...
- on our honeymoon!"

It was not how we expected our honeymoon to go!

MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS

SLIDE MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS

This is what we talked about last Sunday...

- as Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem...
- riding on the back of a donkey's colt.

The Jews correctly identified Jesus as the Messiah.

But they were confused about HOW he was going to function as Messiah.

- No one was expecting a Messiah who would come and die.
- Kings don't die on crosses...kings send people to crosses.

And when this messiah died on a cross...they thought it was over!

But again, they had a MISPLACED EXPECTATION.

TRANSITION

So, here's what I want to do this morning.

I want us to walk through the account of the Resurrection,

- We'll all be in Matthew's Gospel,
- but I want to weave the other Gospel accounts in,
- so that we can paint a complete picture.

And I want to show that,

- while there were MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS
 - about Jesus leading up to his death...
 - they had high hopes that were shattered!
- There were just as many MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS
 - about Jesus AFTER the cross...
 - they had no hope...
 - and that, too, was shattered!

Listen, NO ONE EXPECTED Jesus to come back.

- But he shattered their expectations...
 - Just like he will shatter ours...
- And they got more than they ever imagined!

So, I'm calling this sermon **SLIDE MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS, PT. 2**

RESPONSE

And for my Type-A...Enneagram 1's here...

- Lemme just get all my cards on the table.

If you would say that you DON'T believe in this whole...

- Jesus rising from the dead thing...
 - if you aren't really a Christian...
- Or, if you're interested in it all, but just not sure...

I am going to invite you to walk with us in this study today,

- and at the end of my time today,
- I'm going to give you the opportunity to believe in Jesus,
 - AND if you haven't ever been baptized before...
- I'm going to give you that opportunity, too.

You came to church on Easter Sunday...what were you expecting?

Alright, let's dig in. Matthew chapter 28. **BLANK SLIDE**

MATTHEW 28:1

[1] 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.

EXPLAIN: SPICES

So, Jesus died on the cross on Friday.

- And then comes the Jewish observance of the Sabbath,
- And now it's dawn, on the first day of the week.
- So, this is Sunday.

And two Mary's show up to the tomb.

- One is Mary, the mother of Jesus, as Mark's gospel points out.
- And the other is Mary Magdalene.

Now, in Mark and Luke, it says the women were bringing spices.

- And don't think a good dry rub, on a pork butt, for your Traeger.
- These are burial spices.
 - When a person died, they would wrap the body
 - in about 100-150 pounds of linen and spices.

Now, in the rush to get Jesus in a tomb before the sabbath,

- it's likely that they hadn't taken the time...
- to fully prepare his body.

So, the two Mary's were probably carrying pounds and pounds of spices.

- These gals must've been yoked!
- Like Israelite CrossFit or something!

But note: these gals were expecting to embalm a corpse.

But they had MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS. Verse 2:

MATTHEW 28:2-6

[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.

[3] His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. [4]

And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. [5] 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.

EXPLAIN

- So, there's an earthquake,
- and an angel shows up,
- and he rolls back the stone covering the mouth of the tomb.

And in response, the Roman soldiers freak out...

the irony is not to be missed here:

- the very ones assigned to guard the dead,
- end up, themselves, appearing dead.

And the gals must have been terrified as well.

- But the angel says, *"Don't be afraid!"*
- And then he says THE line:
 - He is not here,
 - for he has risen.

Now remember, we have the benefit of hindsight!

- They were NOT expecting this!
- Cause they were expecting a corpse.

Now, Luke says something really interesting here, so I'll interject his words up on the screen. The angel says:

SLIDE LUKE 24:6-8

[6] He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, [7] that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." [8] And they remembered his words,

TRANSITION

See...Jesus had told them all these things. But they hadn't remembered.

They had MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS leading up to his death.

But they also had MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS after his death.

- No one expected Jesus to be resurrected!
 - These weren't starry-eyed...
 - gullible miracle-seekers...
 - who showed up with lawn chairs...
 - and poster-board signs...
 - and paraphernalia for Jesus to autograph. No!

Now, back to Matthew 28, look at verse 7:

BLANK SLIDE

MATTHEW 28:7-8

[7] Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." [8] So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

EXPLAIN: WOMEN

Now, this is certainly one of the proofs for the historicity of the resurrection.

- No one would ever make up a story at this time...
- with women as the official witnesses,
- since women were not allowed to be witnesses
 - in a legal sense.

We actually have historical evidence of this.

Josephus, the Jewish historian from the 1st century,

- tells us that even the witness of multiple women
- was not acceptable *“because of their levity and hysteria.”*

And the Romans weren't any more progressive than the Jews.

- Celsus, a philosopher and early Roman critic of Christianity,
- mocked the idea of these women
- being the witnesses of the resurrection
- since they were, his words,
- *“Hysterical females...deluded...by sorcery.”*

You know what the world wasn't expecting?

Women having such a prominent role in this movement of Jesus!

TRANSITION

But, it wasn't just the Mary's who had MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS.

Luke mentions what happens when the ladies got to the disciples:

SLIDE LUKE 24:11

[11] these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

You see, not even the apostles believe the testimony of these gals.
Again...NO ONE EXPECTED THIS!

But then John gives a super in-depth account of how the first disciples to respond to the news from Mary.

And I want to go there, because it's really interesting.

SLIDE JOHN 20:2-4

[2] So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved...

Now, if you're new to church and the Bible, there's some stuff that you're going to need to know real quick.

- There were 12 disciples, one of them was named John.
- And John had a nickname,
- and his nickname was,
 - *"The one whom Jesus loved."*

Now, the interesting thing is,

- the only place John is called that is in,
 - you guessed it,
- The Gospel of John...
- written by...John.

Ok, so...take that however you want.

[2] So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." [3] So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. [4] Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

EXPLAIN: FOOT RACE

So, John...

- the other disciple...
- the disciple whom Jesus loves...
- the writer of this gospel...

Wants you to know that

- not only does Jesus like him a little better than everyone else...
- but also, that in a race, John's gonna win.

I mean, leave it to a dude to boast about his own athletic prowess

- while he's writing about the resurrection
- of the only begotten Son of God.

It's in the book, yo! Verse 5.

SLIDE JOHN 20:5-7

[5] And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. [6] Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, [7] and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself.

EXPLAIN: FACE CLOTH

Now, the details here are really important.

- There's all this linen lying there,
 - remember the 150 pounds of linen and spices?
- But next to it is a face cloth and it mentions that it's folded.

Here's why this detail is important.

- This is evidence that the body wasn't stolen.

Which is the prominent theory in history of what happened to Jesus!

- But, I don't know if you've stolen anything ever...
 - and if you haven't good for you,
- just know that your pastor was once arrested for stealing,
 - so...welcome to Fathom.
 - Watch your purse, alright!

But typically, when you steal something, you're in a hurry.

- You don't stop to tidy up the crime scene
 - so it's nice and clean for the police, right?
- Nah! You just scoop and score.

But when Jesus is resurrected,

- he's not in a hurry.
 - He just gets up,
 - and folds that face cloth.

Verse 8:

SLIDE JOHN 20:8-10

[8] Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first,

Really? He had to add that in one more time?

This is the greatest moment in history!

- and John's like, "yeah, Jesus rose from the grave..."
- but don't forget...I'm pretty fast."

also went in, and he saw and believed; [9] for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. [10] Then the disciples went back to their homes.

APPLICATION

Here's why I point this whole running thing.

Here's what I know...we all bring ourselves to the empty tomb.

- We all bring ourselves to the resurrection.
- We all bring our insecurities,
 - and our pride,
 - and our arrogance,
 - and our doubts,
 - and our anxiety,
 - and even our expectations...
 - and we bring all that stuff!

And the good news is, he will meet you right where you are.

TRANSITION

But once again, note: they did not understand. They did not expect this.

They had MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS about this whole thing!

Now, back to Matthew's account. Let's finish up that text. Matthew 28:9...

BLANK SLIDE

MATTHEW 28:9-10

[9] And behold, Jesus met them [the women] and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. [10] Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

EXPLAIN

You see, Jesus shows up to the women,

- and they take his feet and worship him.
 - But Jesus tells them to go tell the rest of the brethren...
 - to go to Galilee where they'd see him.

But once again, John adds this really unique and super sweet story here about Mary Magdalene.

SLIDE JOHN 20:14-15

[14] Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. [15] Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

So, Mary sees Jesus standing there,

- but she doesn't recognize him...
- she just thinks he's the gardener.

Verse 16:

SLIDE JOHN 20:16

[16] Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

EXPLAIN: MARY

Jesus says her name,

- “*Mary!*”
 - and she turned and recognized him.
- It wasn’t until Jesus calls her by name...
- that she recognizes him.

I picture her with tear stains on her face.

- Her life has fallen apart...
- Her savior has been crucified...
- Her expectations shattered...

And yet in this garden, he calls her by her name.

- He says, “*Mary.*”
- He calls her by name...
- and she sees him for who he is!

TRANSITION

This is the story of the Resurrection. It’s what we celebrate every Easter.

- But I hope you saw how
- EVERY SINGLE PERSON in this story had
- **SLIDE MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS**
- about what Jesus was up to.

APPLICATION

SLIDE You see, they expected **DEATH...**but they found **LIFE**

- The Romans thought he was dead.
- The Jews thought he was dead.
- The disciples thought he was dead.
- The soldiers at the tomb thought he was dead.
 - Even Mary, his mother...
 - and Mary Magdalene,
 - thought he was dead.
 - They brought the spices to finish his burial.

They expected DEATH...

but in the resurrection, they found LIFE.

SLIDE They expected **MOURNING...**but they left **REJOICING**

- Peter weeps...
 - when he denies Christ as he is on trial.
- Mary, the mother of Jesus, weeps...
 - as she watches her son die on the cross.
- Mary Magdalene is weeping in the garden...
 - when a gardener approaches her.

They expected MOURNING...

but in the resurrection, they left REJOICING

And finally...

SLIDE They expected a **GRAVE**...but they found a **GARDEN**

- His body was laid.
- The linen was wrapped.
- The spices prepared.
- The entrance was sealed.
- The guards had been set.

But what they didn't expect was an earthquake.

- A seismic shock that would roll the stone away.
- And cause panic in the guards.
- And bring the dead back to life!

They expected a GRAVE...

but in the resurrection, they found a living man in a GARDEN.

MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS.

APPLICATION: OUR EXPECTATIONS

And we have them, too.

We have our MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS about Jesus.

You see, we expect **SLIDE CONDEMNATION**...

Romans 3:23 says: **we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.**

And for so many of us, our expectation from Jesus is condemnation.

- *You did what?*
- *You said what?*
- *You did that again?*
- *You should know better by now!*
- *God must be thoroughly disappointed in you!*

- *He's done with you!*
- *You've gone too far!*

EXPLAIN: MARY

But the fact that Mary Magdalene is the first to witness the resurrected Jesus should give us hope.

You see,

- When Mary first met Jesus,
- the Gospel of Luke tells us that she had seven demons.
- Not one...not two...SEVEN.
 - Seven is a number of completion in the Bible.
- And so, Mark is saying is that Mary was...
 - COMPLETELY possessed by these demons.

Her life would have been a mess.

- With seven demons,
- she would have looked like she was out of her mind.
- She was grossly immoral.
- Church history teaches that she was a prostitute.
- Everyone would have thought of her as beyond redemption.

But, in Luke 8, she fell at Jesus' feet and found healing.

And now she's the first person Jesus appears to.

- And Jesus said her name: *"Mary"*...
- and she recognized him.
- What a beautiful moment.
- Calling her name woke her up.

APPLICATION

And he's doing that with some of you today.

- He's calling your name.
- Right now.

You see, we expect CONDEMNATION...

but we find **SLIDE** SALVATION.

The resurrection is the proof that God has accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sin.

And so, John 3:17 says: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- We expect CONDEMNATION...
- but in the resurrection, we find SALVATION.

And we, too, expect **SLIDE** DEATH...

If there's one thing the last two years have crystalized for us,

- it's that death can come quickly and swiftly for anyone!
- Even with the COVID rates going down...
 - Whether you're vaccinated or not...
- the mortality rates are still the same!
 - Last I checked they're hovering right around 100%.

But you see,

- the resurrection shows...
- that Jesus is the one who conquered death.

It's why the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, that when Jesus died, he took the sting out of death.

- The sting of death is that...
 - death ushers us into eternal judgment.
- But when Jesus died, he took that sting into himself,
 - so that there's no judgment left in death for us.

There's nothing left to fear if we're in him.

ILLUSTRATION: BEES

I heard another pastor use this illustration, but you know that a honeybee can't sting you twice, don't you?

- That's because when a honeybee pushes its stinger out,
- it ruptures the bee's digestive tract,
- which leads to its quick and certain death.

And in the cross,

- death put its stinger into Jesus,
- but when it did,
- the internal workings of death itself ruptured...
- and on that day death died.

And the resurrection is how we know that's true!

You see, we expect DEATH...

but in the resurrection, we find **SLIDE** LIFE

- Real life...
- Meaningful life...
- Authentic life...
- Purposeful life...
- Holy life...
- Life to the full!

And finally,

- we expect a **SLIDE WITH PADS GRAVE...**
- **but in the resurrection, we find a gardener in a GARDEN!**
 - Who knows our name...
 - And calls out to us personally.

These aren't the misplaced expectations of a botched honeymoon!

- **No, in the resurrection...**
- **our expectations are shattered...**
- **in the most extraordinary way imaginable!**

CONCLUSION

And today, Jesus is making each one of us an offer.

- Trade your MISPLACED EXPECTATIONS...
 - for a savior.
 - For one who knows your name.
 - For one who offers you salvation.
 - For one who gives you life to the full.

BLANK SLIDE KEEP PAD

And, man, today I just wonder how many of you...

- just feel like you're done.

Gosh, after the last couple years...

- you're just so tired...
- and overwhelmed...
- and ready for this to be over.

Like, you just don't know how much longer you can keep doing this.

Or maybe you're here, and man, I can just see it,

- there are these things that are just starting to come alive in you.
 - And you're spiritually curious.
 - And you've started asking questions.
 - And maybe you've even started coming to church,
 - and you're hearing the Bible preached,
 - and you're starting to feel something happening.

And I just wanna lay this before you today.

That maybe today could be the day that you just decide,

- *"I'm in.*
- *I'm done.*
- *I've tried life my way.*
- *But today, I want all that to die.*
- *I want to die to myself.*
- *I want salvation.*
- *I want life.*
- *I want the garden...not the grave."*

Maybe you've never believed in any of this stuff before...
or maybe you used to, but it's just been years of wandering.

And listen,

- I know it's Easter,
 - and that may feel a little kitschy or whatever,
- but I want to invite you to say YES to Jesus,
 - and become a Christian.
- I want to invite you to die to yourself.
- I want to invite you
 - to believe in Jesus as Savior
 - and to submit your life to him.

BAPTISM

Now, if you're making that decision today,

- then one of the ways that we show that...
- is we PUBLICLY make that declaration,
 - not just PRIVATELY,
- but we go PUBLIC with it in baptism.

And if you've never really understood what baptism is...listen,

- it's like my wedding ring.
- It's a public display.
- It shows that I'm taken.
- It's a reminder to me and everyone else...
 - that I belong to Maryse...
 - I'm off the market!

And that's baptism...

- it's a public celebration of dying with Christ
- and being raised to walk in the newness of life.
- It's saying, *"I belong to Jesus."*
- *"I'm taken!"*

And so, yes, we have baptisms scheduled today,

- but if you're like, *"I'm saying yes to Christ today."*
 - OR you've just never gone public with that decision...
- man, I want to invite you to get baptized today.

You're like, well I'm not dressed for that.

- We got you.
- We've got shorts and t-shirts and towels.

And so, if that's you...

- if you're ready to go public with your faith in baptism...
- man, I'll be in the back of the room.
- There will be other elders in the back of the room.

Come back to us while we sing,

- and just tell us,
 - *"Man, I prayed to receive Christ."*
 - *"I'm in, and I want to get baptized."*

And we'd love to get you baptized today.

Let him SHATTER your EXPECTATIONS!

- Trade CONDEMNATION for SALVATION...
- Trade MOURNING for REJOICING...
- Trade your GRAVE for a GARDEN...

He is not here, for he has risen

Let's pray together.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Blomberg, Craig. Interpreting the Parables.
- Carson, D.A. Matthew: The Expositor's Bible Commentary.
- Greear, J.D. *It Seems Like Nonsense... But Is It?*