

**Sunday, 28 October 2007**

**Matthew 28: 1-7**

**Mat 28:1-7** After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men. **The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said.** Come here and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you."

## Where is Jesus?

As people, we tend to have little mental boxes where everything fits into. We categorize people, and put them in a box, as we see them, and understand them to be. But we also tend to do this with Jesus. If you hear the name Jesus, what is the mental picture you have? Do you see a picture of a baby in a manger, or maybe a picture of a badly injured body on a cross? Maybe even a picture of a body, wrapped for burial, placed in a grave, covered by a big stone. Is this the picture you have? Then maybe the angel will have to tell you, Sorry, but Jesus is not here!

We tend to believe that Jesus is up in heaven, and sitting on a throne in His kingdom, and one day we may see Him. We believe that when we pray, in some way, Jesus will supernaturally come down to us, and listen to our prayers, and when we say "Amen" He will go back to heaven, and we may continue doing our normal things, living as if He was not with us. We believe that Jesus might be at church, and we may just become aware of His presence if we should go there, but that is where He will remain after we have departed back home. Till next Sunday.

We prefer to have our lives in this world separate from our relationship with Jesus, as the two seldom meets. The men would still like to go out for a beer with the boys and tell some jokes that you may not tell in church. The ladies may go to a salon to get their hair done, and enjoy the opportunity to gossip, and tell stories about other brothers and sisters, that would most likely not be told in church. How shocked would they be if they should suddenly look up and see Jesus standing right there, right next to you? Would you be embarrassed, and blush, for you did not expect to see Him there? Then you are wrong. Jesus is not dead, and gone. He is alive and with us always. Indeed, you need to be shocked and amazed, should you look up and realize that He is not with you.

The angel spoke to the women, he told them to hear the message that Jesus is alive, to remember that Jesus told them that He would rise from the grave, to come and see for themselves that the grave is empty, and then to go out, and share this message with others. Where are you looking for Jesus? Are you aware that He is actually alive, and right there with you. Are you living a life that testifies to that, or are your actions and words, when not in church, showing a different story? What you do with this truth is your choice. How will you live your life? What will be your testimony?

\* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. [david@davidniebuhr.com](mailto:david@davidniebuhr.com)

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