

# Sunday, April 1, 2018 – Easter Sunday

## Sermon: Letting God Surprise You

Read John 20:1-10



With Easter coming on April first I started thinking about April Fool and the Resurrection. I do not think Jesus said “April Fool” when He came out of the grave. It did fool people when Jesus came out of the grave. For many it was a great surprise, but for Jesus' enemies it was a bad surprise.



The enemies of Jesus were glad to finally be getting rid of Him. They had been in a struggle trying to get Jesus out of their way. Jesus threatened the authority of some of the Jewish leaders. Instead of going by the letter of the law Jesus taught about the meaning of the Law. Jesus had inspired the Law and so He knew what it meant. The Law had been manipulated by some in power to help them and make life more difficult for others. They missed a lot of the teaching in the Law and the teaching of the prophets concerning the love that God has for everyone. Jesus taught about love. Their problem was that Jesus was contradicting them and gaining popularity. They needed to stop Him and the most permanent way to do that was to kill Him. They considered His death to be a victory.



For the disciples of Jesus on Friday it had looked like Jesus had lost. They had spent years following Jesus. They had hopes of what Jesus was going to do. All of those hopes were dashed when they watched Jesus die on the Cross. We can skip through this feeling because we know what is going to happen on Sunday. Try to imagine what they must have felt like. They saw their master and their friend dying a criminals death. People were making fun of Him as He died. They were disillusioned, shocked, hurting and angry. A man they looked up to was dying a terrible death. They were defeated.



The women going to the Tomb on Sunday morning were surprised to find it empty. They had seen Jesus die and wanted to do what they could for the body. They were not going to make sure Jesus had risen from the dead. When they got to the Tomb they expected to find the body. They brought the spices they needed to anoint the body. They thought when the Tomb was empty Jesus' body had been stolen. It was a surprise when they saw Jesus and realized He really was alive.



Where is God surprising you? I read a definition of faith once that said, “faith is letting God surprise you.” The greatest victory Jesus showed was by coming out of the grave, but that is not His last surprise. He is always working in our lives. There are areas where we need surprises. There are places where we hurt and where we have needs. Sometimes they seem impossible. They seem to be dead, just like Jesus was when He was crucified. We can look for God to surprise us and give life to those parts of our lives. Be ready for Jesus to make a surprise in your life. Trust Him to bring life to you.