

Sketches



Hope Unstoppable

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)" John 20:1-9 (NIV)

There is hope in this story for every day
and hope for eternity!

I. Hope for everyday life!

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you." Romans 8:11 (NIV)

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Eph. 1:19-20 (NLT)

- A. These verses, among others, promise us that we can change even when we fail on our own.
- B. Resurrection power has another name: Grace.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2Cor.12:9 (NIV)

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C. For whatever reason, that power is most often discovered in the darkest places.

II. Hope for eternal life.

*“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
John 11:25-26 (NIV)*

We, every one of us, should do the right thing now and trust Christ to secure our eternity.

Conclusion:

“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.” John 10:27-28 (NIV)

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Small Group Questions

1. Do you understand the relationship between the resurrection and the need for everyday power? Talk about one area where you have found it difficult to change.
2. Why do we often not discover this grace until we have failed on our own numerous times?
3. Have you secured your place with God in eternity?
4. How do you know that trusting Christ will do that?

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