

# The Perfect Easter Service

“Early in the morning on the first day of the week....”

## 1. Go at the right time.

The first Easter service was simple: a few ladies, an angel, the risen Lord. *Mk 16:1,2*. They were up early for the sunrise service, and they were still too late. The big event wasn't the laying on of embalming spices; it was a resurrection from the dead. And they missed it! In fact, all the disciples missed it. The angel who preached that morning said, “He is not here, for He is risen as He said.” **AS HE SAID!** It had been announced. It was in the bulletin. Why weren't his disciples sitting there all night waiting to see Him rise up from the dead? It was the event of the year—of the ages—and they missed it.

Are you believing God this Easter? What He says, He will do. But will you be there for it?

## 2. Wear appropriate attire.

The women who approached the tomb that first Easter were clothed in worry: “Who will roll the stone away?” *Mk 16:3*. When an angel appeared, they wrapped up in full-fledged fear with matching trembling. God does not want us to fear anything: not big things like terrorists or tsunamis or little things like being late or doing our taxes. The two ladies were facing a life and death situation, but they didn't know it. They were expecting death; they had prepared for death; they had come for no other purpose than to hallow His death. But He was alive, and the first thing He said to them was “Rejoice!” *Mt 28:9*. He clothed them in the garment of praise.

What will you be wearing this Easter?

## 3. Go to the right address.

The angel pointed out that Jesus was going before them to Galilee. He said, “There you will meet Him, as He said to you.” *Mk 16:7*. The first Easter service wasn't even scheduled for the graveyard; Jesus had told them to meet Him in Galilee!

So what is the difference in coming to the graveyard or going to Galilee? We come to the graveyard at our convenience; the dead will be there. We go to Galilee when He says to go. We return to the graveyard because that is where we left Him. We go to Galilee because that is where He is sending us. We come to the graveyard to hallow old memories; we go to Galilee to begin a new adventure. We come to the graveyard to bring human service; we go to Galilee to experience supernatural power. We come to the graveyard on our initiative to carry out our plans; we go to Galilee in obedience to His command and to carry out His plans. We come to the graveyard to honor Jesus the victim, attacked on every side in our culture. We go to Galilee to worship Jesus the Conquering Lord, moving in the world with unlimited power and divine purpose.

Where will you be for Easter service this year? At the graveyard or in Galilee?

## 4. Sit where you can see well.

There are convenient seats right down there with the majority of our generation. These are the comfortable earthbound recliners. From here, the earthly perspective is crystal clear. But there is a seat reserved for us way up there with Him in the heavenly places. Whew! That would take some climbing! But from there we get Heaven's perspective. From the earthbound chairs, it looked like it was all over that first Easter, while Heaven was just launching the biggest thing that ever happened in human history. The earthbound view was memorializing the end of Christ's ministry; God was inaugurating His multiplied ministry through all believers. Those in the reclining seats were mourning the death of all their dreams while heaven was celebrating the birth of the church triumphant.

Where will you be sitting this Easter?