



- The resurrection of Jesus is not merely a vindication of Jesus' identity as the Son of God, it is a vindication of Jesus' entire _____ of _____.
- Why did Jesus appear to his _____ and not to his _____ and to the world?
- The answer to that question has everything to do with _____ Jesus is and the kind of _____ he came to establish.
- Jesus' resurrection is a vindication of Jesus' _____ and _____.

Matthew 28:1-8 (NIV) After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

- The unusual fact of Mary Magdalene as a chief _____ to the resurrection of Jesus.
- The undeniable fact of the _____ tomb (Matthew 28:5-6).

The empty tomb, then, forms a veritable rock on which all rationalistic theories of the resurrection have dashed themselves in vain. – Sir Norman Anderson

- The indisputable fact of the _____ of the church.
- Jesus' resurrection frees his followers from the _____ of death.

John 11:25-26 (NIV) ²⁵ 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?"

- The resurrection of Jesus is the real _____ to the universal fear of death.

Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV) ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- The challenge of Easter is the challenge of _____.
- And the reason the call of Jesus is so challenging is because it requires us to give up _____ of our lives and _____ to him.
- How will you _____ to the challenge of Easter?