He is Risen-He is Risen Indeed



1. It's Time for Faith, Not Fear (v. 17)

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid"

Three times in Isaiah God in heaven says:
"I am the first and I am the last and besides me there is no God."

The Three Top Fears People Face Today

The possibility of a nuclear attack or suicide bomber on our soil

That a spouse or a child would come down with a terminal illness,

You yourself would come down with a terminal illness.

Isaiah's Vision

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

A Gesture of fortification and encouragement "He laid his right hand on me"

Fear and faith cannot dwell in the same heart, they're mutually exclusive

"I am he who lives and was dead and behold I am he who lives and was dead. I'm alive forevermore. Amen."

The saddest day of John's life was the day Jesus died. John was there at the cross the Bible tells us next to Mary the mother of Jesus. He was watching the whole thing come down. He was so sad, so sorrowful. All of the disciples were sorrowful.

John's sorrow was turned into joy when he walked into the empty tomb., "John saw and believed." He saw the evidence of the resurrection and he believed.

If Jesus rose from the dead, it means that everything else he promised must be true. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and I am the life, whoever believes in me even though he dies, yet shall believe."

Billy Sunday once said, "If you have no joy in your life and you're a Christian, there must be a leak in your Christianity somewhere."

3.It's Time for <u>Decision</u>, Not <u>Indecision</u> (v. 18b)

"I have the keys of Hades and of death."

Hades just means the grave; and death is the condition.

Hades is the New Testament term for the Old

Testament term Sheol, they both mean the same thing.

It simply means the grave.

3.It's Time for <u>Decision</u>, Not <u>Indecision</u> (v. 18b)

When Jesus says, "I have the keys, it means I have the authority.

He is the designated driver for eternity

3.It's Time for <u>Decision</u>, Not <u>Indecision</u> (v. 18b)

When Jesus put his hands out on the cross, in effect he was saying, "You see this? You don't have to be afraid. I've taken the sting of death away."

50Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

55"O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

Easter-time Exercises:

- 1. Sing louder than normal today--you've got good reason to!
- 2. Smile a lot! If Jesus is really alive and promises you eternal life, why not show it?
 - 3. Tell someone else who seems hopeless why you're singing louder and smiling more!