

*sermon notes*

## AIN'T NO GRAVE

### *Part 1: Believe Again*

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. "

Revelation 1:18 NKJV

Our prayer for you this Easter is that you not only remember what Jesus did over 2000 years ago but that you would allow Easter to happen to you!

## ALIVE BUT NOT LIVING

Situations can happen in our lives that cause us to feel like our very life has been sucked out of us. Living this way is not what God has in mind for us.

- ✓ **Exhaustion**
- ✓ **Emptiness**
- ✓ **Entrapment**

## BELIEVE AGAIN

### *John 11:1-26: Mary, Martha and Lazarus*

Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?"

John 1:23-26 NLT

## *Jesus comes into our situation to say:*

- I am right now the resurrection
- I am in this place the resurrection
- Move from the place of "it's over", "it's dead", to BELIEVE AGAIN

## *Daniel 3:16-25: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego*

"Nebuchadnezzar was so furious with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face became distorted with rage. He commanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual."

Daniel 3:19 NLT

Not only does the voice in our own heads tell us its over – there is a real enemy of our lives – a real devil that wants you to never accept that God can turn things around

When you take a stand to believe again – to take your situation to Jesus and believe it's NOT over, the enemy might try to turn the heat up 7 times

"Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"

Daniel 3:25 NLT

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Revelation 1:18 NKJV

## *Consider and Discuss*

- Could you relate to the idea of your life being filled with exhaustion, emptiness, or entrapment, either now or sometime in the past? If you have a testimony of getting victory in one of these areas share it with the group.
- Do you ever feel like Mary – not even wanting to 'go to Jesus' i.e. spend time in prayer and worship? Discuss what tactics the enemy

might use to discourage us from going to Jesus, and how we can overcome these tactics.

- Read the testimony of the "3 guys" in Daniel 3:16-18 which they made when they were facing the fire. What was their focus, their mindset as they faced this situation? What are some ways we can be prepared to face trials that may be in our future?

### *Personal Challenge*

- Before we can believe again, we must take the step of believing and inviting Jesus into our lives. You can take the step right now by asking Him to forgive you and committing your life to Him. Begin reading His word (the gospel of John is a great place to start), talking to Him in prayer, and connecting with other believers in our Sunday services and weekly small groups.
- What are some things you do when you feel exhausted, empty or trapped? Are they healthy responses? What are some principles from this message you can apply to lift yourself out of negativity and into "a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10 NLT).

### *Notes*

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