



“DARK BEFORE DAWN” *HOPE FOR HARD TIMES SERIES*

Steve Holdaway, LifeSpring Church, Easter 2017

BIG IDEA: Though Jesus prophesied that troubled times lie ahead, we can have victory. Because of the resurrection, we win!

Luke 24 NIV

1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" 8 Then they remembered his words.

Matthew 28

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."

1 Corinthians 15

55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

APPLY:

- Have you evaluated the evidence for the resurrection and made a decision as to whether or not you believe Christ lives?
- Have you come to the place in your life where you have seen the need to trust in Christ to be your Savior?
- What difference is the risen Christ making in your life?

For next Sunday, read John 15-16. Prophecy #1: Persecution will escalate worldwide.