

Isaiah 25:6-9; Ephesians 5:8-14; Matthew 27:62-28:10

## - Fear is a beast that demands to be fed!

- We do our best to keep the beast at bay...to keep our semblance of peace!
  - The chief priests and the Pharisees sought to assuage their fear by sealing the tomb.
  - The women addressed their fear by confronting it!
  - We keep pieces of ourselves hidden in the shadows.
- Fear distracts us from trusting that God keeps his promises.
- The risk of being fearless is that we have to acknowledge what the root of our fear is.

## - The biggest surprise in the Resurrection is the shock of the people!

- Jesus rose from the dead because God keeps His promises!
- We pray audacious, fearless prayers and then we are surprised when the God of the Resurrection not only hears but actually answers them!
  - Do our prayers reflect the limitless and life-breathing power of Easter’s resurrection?
  - God works in our brokenness to show and share life with Him.
  - Whatever weight you carry or cross you’ve bared, He has seen it all before and assures you have a place at the table!
- Your struggle with how you belong, believe, and follow does not disqualify you from God’s grace, it demands it even more!!

## - God’s faithfulness trumps EVERY fear!

- When we wake from death the grave remains empty and the beast has been slain!
- Life in Christ’s light means that we are covered and consumed in God’s grace!
  - Our sins are forgiven...every time!
  - Our fear does not get to own us anymore!
  - Our future is determined the measure of how God has kept His Word!
- The shadows of death, fear, and failure are swallowed up forever in the Light of the Resurrection!

