The Jerusalem Times

TOMB OF JESUS FOUND EMPTY

PART 4 IN THE SERIES, **HEADLINES**: THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

An Investigative Report by Pastor Grant Fishbook

The response of a Chilean Miner to the question "What kept you alive?"

"The hope that someone was digging."

Jesus was on a rescue mission

For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost - Luke 19:10

His rescue mission cost him his life

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. – *Isaiah* 53:4-6

His rescue tools are unconventional

grace

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. – *Titus 2:11-14*

mercy

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. – *Ephesians 2:4-5*

forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9

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The Breakthrough Moment of the Resurrection

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. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 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? He is not here; he has risen! – *Luke 24:1-5b*

How can I be rescued by Jesus?

Admit my need for God (Romans 3:23)

Believe that Jesus came to save me (John 3:16 and Acts 16:31)

Repent of my sins – "God, I was wrong" (I John 1:9)

Declare that Jesus is both Savior and Lord of your life (*Romans 10:9-10*)

Receive your new identity in Jesus (John 1:12)

Next Steps

- If you weren't ready today to accept Jesus as your Savior but you think you might want to, please call us any time at 733-1337 (Closed Monday, April 25). You can also talk to a member of the After Service Care Team immediately after any weekend service any time in the future.
- If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, the best next step is to be baptized. You have this opportunity the weekend of May 7 & 8 at any weekend service at either campus. Read about the required baptism class inside today's program.
- Want to know more about God, Jesus and Christianity? Register for A Taste of Alpha:
 A Practical Introduction to Christianity. Read all the details inside today's program.

Personal & Small Group Ouestions

- 1) How did you celebrate Easter this year?
- 2) Did you invite anyone to join you this Easter? What kind of response did you get to your invitations?
- 3) Did you ever get lost as a child? What emotions can you recall from the experience? How were you found?
- 4) Which of the tools listed above has God used to touch your heart? Which was the most important to you?
- 5) The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant moment in human history. How does serving a living Savior change your day to day life?
- 6) How are you joining Jesus on His mission of rescue?
- 7) How can we pray for you?