

## SERMON NOTES

Easter Festival Service, March 31, 2024 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “WE WIN!” TEXT: Mark 16:1-8

INTRO. Pastors Conf. Noblesville – free time>Big Ten Network: “Football Classics” UM v. Penn St. 2 yrs. back. Watched w/confidence & anticipation – knew the outcome! WE WIN – 16-10!

TODAY: Why did you come? Suspense? New ending? Stone not rolled away, women complete burial rites? Skeleton in musty tomb? NO WAY! We came because we know the outcome! Jesus-100, Satan, death, and grave – 0! WE WIN! He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

### I. EASTER HAD A SOMBER START

- A. Disciples: hiding in fear, riddled with guilt, sorrow.
- B. Women: busy themselves with traditional tasks.
- C. Not one expects a Missing Jesus: stone rolled away, empty grave clothes, empty tomb > angels say: “He is risen!” = confusion ALL

ILLUST. U-tube is a gift: UNC/Jordan, IU/Keith Smart, Auburn/field goal return v. AL, UK/Christian Laettner...oops! Sorry! You can always win!

### II. EASTER HAD A GLORIOUS FINISH

A. First come amazing reports:

- 1. The women: empty tomb, angel words
- 2. The two women, then Mary Magd.: “We have seen the Lord!”
- 3. Then Peter, James, the Emmaus Two: What does this mean?

B. Then comes, “Shalom!” Jesus comes to the Ten.

- 1. “Touch me and see...” “See my hands, my feet, my side.”
- 2. They were overjoyed, confused, some doubted esp. Thomas
- 3. A week later: “Stop doubting & believe.” “My Lord & my God!”

C. Through them we hear & see: “WE WIN! Jesus lives!”

### III. LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

ILLUST. The Masters: Tiger Wds., “impossible” chip on 16: always goes in!

A. Jesus looked like a loser on that cross:

- 1. Some Messiah he: weak, alone, helpless, sighing, bleeding, dying.
- 2. Jeered: “He saved others...!” “Come down from the cross...”
- 3. Easter declares him the Winner over all evil: King of Kings, L. of L.

B. Christians often look like losers, don’t we?

- 1. Cancer, diabetes, stricken w/ grief, depressed, alone, dying
- 2. “Where is your God?” Paul in I Cor.15: “Jesus, the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits...”
- 3. GOOD NEWS today: “We win!” Jesus lives! He is risen!

CLOSE: “Back to the Future II”: Biff acquires Sports Almanac from future. Knows outcome of games not yet played. Can’t lose a bet! Rich/trouble. We know our future: can’t lose because Jesus lives & so shall we! We win!