"The Greatest Escape!"

John 20:1-18

Main Idea: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christian faith, *proving* His victory over sin and death, and *offering* believers new life, hope, and reconciliation with God.

I. Introduction: Great Escape Movies!

II. The Great(est) Escape: An Empty Tomb and a Risen Lord

- The Great Discovery v. 1-2:
 - "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!" (Matthew 28:6)
- Great Reactions v. 3-10
 - o Peter & John
- Eyewitness Encounter v. 11-18
 - The resurrection wasn't just a <u>spiritual</u> idea; it was a <u>physical</u>, historical event witnessed by many. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

III. The Great Significance: Why the Resurrection Changes Everything

- A. <u>Victory</u> Declared:
 - o Over Sin (Romans 4:25)
 - Over Death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)
- B. Identity Confirmed:
 - The resurrection validated Jesus' claims to be the Son of God. (Romans 1:4)
- C. Hope Secured:
 - Eternal Life (John 11:25-26)
 - New Life <u>Now</u> (Romans 6:4, Ephesians 1:18-20)
- D. Faith Founded:
 - The resurrection is non-negotiable (1 Corinthians 15:12-22)
- IV. Our Great Escape: How to Live in the Light of the Resurrection
 - Live with <u>Hope</u> (1 Peter 1:3)
 - Live <u>without</u> Fear (1 John 4:19)
 - Live in Freedom (Romans 8:1-2)
 - Live with <u>Purpose</u> (Matthew 6:33)
 - Live <u>Transformed</u> (Romans 12:1-2)

He is Risen! This isn't just an ancient story; it's a present reality with power for today and hope for eternity.