

Sermon Title: The Crumbling Boundaries (and the Hole in Death)

- Introduction:
 - Scripture: John 20:1-18
 - Presenting a solid-looking box, engaging congregation in guessing its contents.
 - Reveals the box is empty, lost an hour due to Daylight Saving Time transition.
- Exploring the Concept of Time:
 - Contemplating the nature of time and its mysteries.
 - Examples: Oxford's Great Tom, Einstein's Theory of Relativity.
 - Time is not as fixed as perceived, it's relative and flexible.
- Easter Morning and the Empty Tomb:
 - Mary finds the tomb empty, confronting the absence of the expected.
 - Death appears to have a hole, challenging its fixed nature.
 - Death is not the unchanging boundary it seems to be.
- Boundaries and Fixed Realities:
 - Humans tend to establish boundaries and borders.
 - Story of surveyors marking the US-Canada boundary with Native Americans.
 - Boundaries often exist because humans decide they should.
- Implications of a Hole in Death:
 - Belief in fixed death narrows and limits life.
 - Fear of crossing boundaries, avoiding risks associated with mortality.
- Easter Hope and Freedom:
 - Easter signifies God penetrating the boundary of death.
 - Jesus' resurrection symbolises the triumph over death's finality.
 - Belief in Christ breaks down all boundaries, leading to hope and freedom.
- Conclusion:
 - Embracing the belief in the risen Christ transcends all boundaries.
 - Encouragement to embrace risks of love, forgiveness, and trust.
 - The hour has not just moved forward but into eternity through Christ's resurrection.

Questions

1. How does the analogy of the "solid-looking box" and the lost hour due to Daylight Saving Time transition relate to the concept of time and its mysteries discussed in the sermon?
2. In what ways does the discovery of the empty tomb on Easter morning symbolise a "hole in death," challenging the fixed nature of death that humans often perceive?
3. The sermon mentions humanity's tendency to establish boundaries and borders. How does this relate to the idea of fixed boundaries in life, particularly regarding time and death?
4. Reflecting on the story of surveyors marking the boundary between the United States and Canada, how does it illustrate the perception of fixed boundaries and the impact of belief in those boundaries?
5. According to the sermon, how does the belief in a "hole in death" through the resurrection of Jesus Christ offer hope and freedom in overcoming fear and despair?
6. In what ways does the Easter message of Jesus' resurrection breaking through the boundary of death challenge our understanding of limits and boundaries in life, and how might this perspective influence our actions and relationships?