

While [the women] were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered His words,

Jesus was never buried here, so why have you come to these storage units of dead bodies so early on this cold Easter morning? That was the mistake of the women, called out to them by the angels. They went to the place where Jesus was no longer buried. And, they went on the third day. The intervening day, the Sabbath, disrupted their ability to perform their pitiful tasks of grief. What were they to be doing on the Sabbath? - resting physically and remembering the blessed words of their Lord. But it was not His Word that filled them with hope as they huddled together with the disciples and other followers of Jesus, but the words of their own sin and words threatening death from Jesus' enemies, which filled them with fear.

E.g., Even if all should forsake You, I will never fall away. / Even if I must die with You, I will not deny You! / I swear to you, I know not the man! / He is innocent of the charges, but I will punish Him. / We have no king but Caesar! / Crucify Him! / Barabbas! / Come down from the cross! If you are the Son of God. / If you are the King of Jews ... Save yourself and us ... Especially their own sinful words and thoughts filled their hearts and minds with fear and shame. What is filling your hearts and minds this morning, my fellow sinners?

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because YOU remember His gracious words of promise to you.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because the Living One said He will return for all these and for you.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because these are not dead, but asleep, You too have life abiding in you, so just like them even though you die, yet shall you live. Believing in the risen Christ you will never die.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because the bodies of all these believers will be raised to life everlasting and we who are alive will be transformed at Jesus' reappearing.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because you want to hear His life-giving word again and receive life afresh.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because you have been washed and cleansed to live a new life forgiven of all your sins.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because you want to receive that crucified and living body and blood of your Savior, so that you will hunger and thirst no more.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because You remember His many words – *“Little girl, arise!”; / “Lazarus, come out!”, / “Go, show yourselves to the priests.”; / “Be cleansed.”; / “Your son will live.”; / “Ephatha! - Be opened!”; / “Peace! Be still!” / “Be of good cheer, your sins are forgiven you.” / “Let the little children come to Me.”; / “I chose you.”; / “Fear not. Peace, be unto you.”*

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Jesus was delivered up for your trespasses and raised for your justification.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Christ has been raised, your faith is not futile, you are no longer in your sins.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and come out; the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. The dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. He will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

For you know that your Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after your skin has been thus destroyed, yet in your flesh you shall see God with your very own eyes.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because Jesus lives, you will live also.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

Because you are not uninformed about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since you believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.

Why Do You Look for the Living Among the Dead?

We are here to encourage one another with these words.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen