"YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN"

SUPERNATURAL – PT. 1

March 23, 2008 *Keith Boyer*

*MATT. 28:5-6 (LB) Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be frightened!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but he isn't here! **For he has come back to life again**, just as he said he would. Come in and see where his body was lying. . . .*

WE GET KNOCKED DOWN BY…

✓ _____

JOHN 20:19 (TEV) It was late that Sunday evening…

✓ _____

MATT. 36:56b … all the disciples had deserted Him and fled.

✓ _____

JOHN 20:19 (LB) That evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors, in fear of the Jewish leaders…

WHAT CHANGED?

ACTS 4:13 (NAS) Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

JESUS RAISES US UP AS WE…

1) OPEN OUR_____ TO HIS_____

EPH. 4:18 (NLT) Their closed minds are full of darkness; they are far away from the life of God because they have shut their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

EPH. 1:19-20 (NLT) I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead …

JOHN 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them he gave the power to become the children of God.

ROM. 12:2a (NLT) Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think..

2) OPEN OUR _____TO HIS_____

MICAH 7:18 (NLT) Where is another God like you, who pardons the sins of his people? …you delight in showing mercy.

ROM. 3:22 (LB) Now God says he will accept and acquit us--declare us "not guilty"--if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like.

EPH.. 2:8-9 (NIV/LB) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it.

3) OPEN OUR_____ TO HIS _____

EPH. 3:17 (MSG/NLT) I pray that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite Him in. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love.

1 JOHN 4:18a (NLT) … perfect love expels all fear…

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Digging Deeper: Small Group Questions …

- What's the greatest comeback story you've ever heard (other than Jesus)?
- What tends to knock you down? Share about an experience you've had or a time in your life when you felt knocked down/defeated.
- What aspect of the "Easter-story" stands out the most in your mind?
- In what ways has God's grace, love and power impacted your life?
- In what area(s) of your life are you trusting God to bring about change?