

“His Resurrection is Ours!”

04-20-14

On Good Friday **Jesus died for our sins**. Some of the women in the Easter story had been at the foot of the cross and watched Him suffer. After He'd died, they watched as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took Jesus' body down, wrapped Him in cloths and put Him in Joseph's new tomb that he'd carved into a rock hill. **Jesus was buried.**

That first Easter morning, they met together and made their way to the tomb. They didn't fear the darkness or fear being identified with Christ. We've also gotten up this morning and made our way to this place, not because we don't know what to expect, but we know how the story ends!

Go to Matthew 28. On that First Easter, the women arrived early. These women didn't arrive early wondering if anything had happened or not, but rather to take care of unfinished business. Look what happened in verses 1-4, *“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.”*

The women arrived expecting. They expected to find a body. They came there to anoint the body of the Lord. They didn't expect to see the stone rolled away and an angel sitting on it! The guards had thought this was just going to be a regular 'graveyard shift' but they were sadly mistaken! Even for them it had become a life-changing event!

Look at the angel's words in verses 5-7, *“But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”*

Verse 6 gives us the most important news, *“He is not here, for He has risen as He said!”* God gave the women access to an empty tomb! They couldn't believe it! They were expecting to see the dead body of Jesus, and instead they talk to an angel! This was nothing like they expected! **Jesus had risen from the dead!**

When you came this morning, what did you expect to see? Did you come to see how the church was decorated, or listen to the music from the choir? Or did you come to see what food there'd be at the continental breakfast? Or did you come to celebrate everything Jesus has done for you?

The angel didn't want the women to just sit in amazement. He gave them a mission. They were to go quickly and tell the disciples Jesus had risen from the dead. And that's exactly what they did. That mission is also ours today. We need to proclaim Jesus!

The women departed in fear and joy. Look at verse 8, *“So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.”* Can you imagine what you would do if you'd just heard this message from an angel at the tomb? Would you keep it to yourself, or would you hurry and tell the news with great excitement?

But what happened next was even more incredible! **Jesus appeared!** Look at verses 9-10, *“And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”*

Jesus had returned to life in power and glory and had passed not only through the graveclothes but the tomb itself! He didn't even need the stone rolled away to rise! The angel had rolled the stone away so that those who came to the tomb might believe!

On that first Easter Morning, the women would see and witness the glorified body of our Lord. They believed and would want to go and tell the whole world. Are you following their example?

As you think about the scene at the tomb, how do you see it? Are you puzzled over how the resurrection could have happened? Or have you experienced an *“aha”* moment of belief? This is the day to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ's victory over sin and Satan was complete as He died on the cross for you! His resurrection is yours!

The Passion of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross would have meant nothing if there was no resurrection! The devil thought he'd won! Jesus died on the cross. His limp, lifeless body was removed from the cross and laid in a tomb secured, sealed, and guarded by soldiers. But death and the grave couldn't hold Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

But the Easter story isn't the end of the miracle, there's one more thing! **Jesus is alive!** He walks with you each and every day and loves you with a never-ending love! He cares for you no matter what you do. His forgiveness and grace are always there! His resurrection is ours!

Everything in Easter story is important! But of first importance is: **Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ!** Whoever believes will be saved! Listen to Jesus' own words from John 11:25-26, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.DO you believe this?”*

These are Jesus' own words to you! You can believe them! This Easter morning, be filled with the overflowing light and grace of Jesus Christ! Praise and worship Him, for He is your Risen Lord and Redeemer! Tell everyone you meet, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!”