

Matthew 28:1-10 - The Undeniable Proof of the Resurrection

TSK, GreekLexicon, JFB, Geneva, Clarke, Poole, Trapp, Geisler, Rienecker, Henry, Gill, Calvin, Barnes, INT, Robertson, Vincent Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus was **declared innocent** by Pilate and he made several **attempts to release Jesus**. But because Pilate **loved himself too much** and didn't want to be inconvenienced, he **ordered Jesus be tortured and killed**. Pilate was desperate to get out of Palestine and didn't want to do anything to rile up the Jews, which would have offended Caesar Tiberius, who would have left him in Palestine.

Now if the story ended there with the execution of an innocent man by Pilate and the Jews, it would have been a tragedy and a book might have been written about it. **But this story was not merely about the execution of someone known to be innocent. After that death came a triumphant resurrection.** This is why many, many books were written about this triumphant resurrection. And since your Bible is the most authoritative of all books, hear this triumphant story again and what it means for you!

Our headings are:

They Saw Proof of the Resurrection

They Heard Proof of the Resurrection

The Spoke of the Proof of the Resurrection

Our goals are: **That you will praise God his Son was raised from the dead and earned a heavenly resurrection for you, and that you will promote that knowledge of the resurrection everywhere.**

They Saw Proof of the Resurrection

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** came to see the tomb.

1. Early Sunday morning, just about sunrise, Mary Magdalene, another Mary, and some other women headed to Jesus' tomb to put spices on his dead body, but instead of a dead body, they saw evidence of the Lord's resurrection.

It was significant Jesus was raised from the dead on the Christian Sabbath. All 3 major feasts of the OT (Unleavened Bread/Passover, Feast of Weeks/Pentecost, Feast of Ingathering/Tents) pointed to Christ and all 3 were celebrated on Sunday.

The Sabbath marked the completion of creation; now the new Sabbath marks the completion of re-creation.

2 And behold, there was a **great earthquake**; for an **angel of the Lord** descended from heaven, and came and **rolled back the stone** from the door, and **sat on it**.

2. Before the women got there, God shook the earth in a strong way. (Seismos megas)

What is the significance of this earthquake? When Jesus died there was a great earthquake and many dead people were raised to life (Matthew 27:51)...as with Ezekiel with the dry bones. So the earthquake meant deliverance – freedom – opening up that which was trapped. And so it was here again. Death was destroyed! Jesus was delivered from the grave.

3. The women saw the effect of the earthquake and saw the angels God sent to remove the large stone (those women couldn't do it) that blocked the entrance to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

The angels were **sitting and waiting in the tomb to show others the good news that Jesus was resurrected.**

Question: Why didn't Jesus remove the stone himself? When the angel removed the stone, it showed God had **legally discharged Christ from his work!** Jesus didn't force his way out. His Father set him free **after he finished his work.**

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

4. The angels (there were 2, but 1 spoke) wore bright shining clothing...white as snow.

(Abram had 3 visitors, but only one spoke.)

Mark used the words "white robes" and Luke used "shiny robes." But there was no contradiction. When light shines on white, it becomes shiny... especially when the white object moves into the **early morning sun.**

Question: **What was the reason for white robes?** White speaks of purity. **This was good news. There was no blood on Jesus any longer!**

4 And the **guards shook for fear** of him, and became like dead men.

5. Along with the effects of the earthquake, the large stone being rolled away, and 2 powerful men in shining clothing, the women saw the guard shaking in fear and being like dead men (fainting).

6. Lessons:

a. Whatever God promises, he accomplishes. Here he shook the whole earth to do what he promised. Another example: God said Christ's kingdom will spread to all parts of the earth, and it will. It might seem impossible, but God's words never fail. No religion or government can stop him from doing his work. The resurrection shows there is no limit to God's power!

b. So with God's promises, fear must go from your heart. If you fear, it is because you are forgetting the resurrection!

c. The great acts of God brings joy to Christians, but fear and terror to non-believers!

d. Women were honored to be the first witnesses of the resurrection. Women honored the Lord by staying with him at the cross, even with danger around, and while the men fled. Only women who aren't trusting Jesus are weak and afraid.

They Heard Proof of the Resurrection

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "**Do not be afraid,** for I know that **you seek Jesus who was crucified.** 6 "He is not here; for **He is risen,** as He said. Come, **see the place where the Lord lay.**

1. The sight at the tomb was remarkable for the women but it wasn't enough: The angels then proceeded to speak to them so they could be firsthand hearers about Christ's resurrection.

2. But before presenting additional evidence of the resurrection, the angels told the women: "Do not be afraid."

Why were these women afraid? The women were afraid because **they did not remember the words of Jesus** that he would be raised from the dead on the 3rd day. Maybe they feared they **would have been accused of stealing the Lord's body.**

Luke 24: 5 Then, as **they were afraid** and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" 8 And **they remembered His words.**

Joy came when they remembered Christ's Words. The male Roman guards ran away in fear. The women stood in faith.

3. The angels said to the women: "We know you are seeking Jesus – the one who was crucified."

How did the angels know that? **God revealed it to them.** This was not public information. Civilians did not go to the cemetery when Jesus was buried. It was the beginning of the Sabbath that Friday evening.

4. The angels then announced, in the form of a rebuke, to the women: "He is risen."

No one had stolen the body. No animal had eaten the body. Jesus was alive. Christ had to be crucified, descend to the grave and then be raised up. **This was part of Christ's humiliation process as a sacrifice for sins.**

5. Then angel said to the women: "Look at some more evidence... here is where he lay."

One angel was where Jesus' head was, and other was where his feet were.

6. Lessons:

a. You fear when you don't know the truth! Let me explain! When you don't know the truth, your faith is weak. When your faith is weak, you fear. Faith and fear are enemies... mortal enemies. So know the Word of God well so you don't doubt him. **Listen carefully to the preaching every Sunday.** Make it a priority. **TEACH IT TO YOUR CHILDREN!**

b. Why were all the details given about Jesus' resurrection? All of these details of his resurrection show the truthfulness of the words Jesus had spoken. You do the same thing. **Details illustrate and confirm truth.** You might say: I saw two young men, one black, one white. They were driving a Dodge pickup, black in color, with a dent on the passage side, and the number was... **This is what preaching is.** It is a reminder of the details of what Christ has done for you so you could trust him!

c. The women saw Jesus was raised and the angels confirmed it, but Jesus appeared regularly after his resurrection, especially on Sundays, to his disciples. Many others saw. At one time over 500 people saw him. They testified Jesus was raised.

d. Hearing this testimony, you must believe he is alive and you must look to see him working in you and in others.

They Spoke of Proof of the Resurrection

7 "And go quickly **and tell His disciples** that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going **before you into Galilee;** there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

1. It was wonderful the women saw evidence of Jesus' resurrection and heard the assurance he had risen, but truth has responsibilities, and you see the command of the angels to speak of that Good News to others.

The message was clear: "Christ was raised from the dead and will meet you soon." This would have encouraged the dejected hearts of the disciples. This would have prepared them to take the message of Jesus to the entire world. **But why would Jesus be waiting in Galilee and not Jerusalem?** Galilee was safer for the disciples. God has compassion for his children.

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

2. Without delay, the women took the message of Jesus' resurrection to the disciples.

They did this with fear and great joy. **They were still a little confused and fearful about what they would say.** Who wouldn't be a little confused after meeting angels? But they knew it was the truth...Jesus was no longer dead...just like he had said. **That is the kind of excitement that comes when one remembers something important...maybe where she left her jewelry.**

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "**Rejoice!**" So they came and held Him by the feet and **worshipped Him.** 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. **Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee,** and there they will see Me."

3. Then Jesus met the women along the way which surely removed their remaining fear (phobia).

He said: **Rejoice.** (Hail) Mary Magdalene likely left the other women before they initially entered the tomb to take the message to Peter and the disciples. She then returned with the disciples and had a direct encounter with Jesus in the garden.

4. When the women met the risen Jesus, they worshipped him, falling at his feet.

5. Then Jesus told them the same thing the angel had said to them: "Speak of the resurrection!"

There was no ambiguity about the call to evangelize. And they went on to do so, but his time with less fear.

6. Lessons:

a. Death was taken captive by Jesus. Because of that, death has no power over you. Rejoice. Tell others about it. And laugh at Covid. It can only take you body...and even so, only with God's permission. Death's sting has been removed.

b. It is true is not dangerous to speak of Christ's resurrection in Canada, but you do encounter mocking and contempt. But because **the resurrection is so important in that no one can be saved without believing it, tell it to those who want to hear.** Ignore the mockers. Young people, remember this. **Your friends may laugh at your belief, but they need Christ resurrection!** Do you really love them? Then speak up.

c. Furthermore, show people Christ is alive and in you by the way you talk and act. That's a powerful message.

d. Without the resurrection, the Gospel means nothing.

1Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, **then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.**

If you don't believe in the resurrection but claim to be a Christian, you are most pitiable! The resurrection saves you from hell: **Revelation 1:18** "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, **I am alive forevermore.** Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

The resurrection gives you life.

John 14:19 ...Because I live, **you will live also.**

e. When you gather for worship and share in the sacraments, you are meeting Jesus. He then continues to equip you to spread the Word of his resurrection everywhere. You meet with him in your home also when you worship. How's your worship? Are you being nourished at home and in church?

Conclusion:

The women **saw and heard evidence of Jesus' resurrection.** That reminded them what Jesus said earlier. They were then commissioned **by the angels and the Lord** to go **speak and spread the Word** of the resurrection.

Beloved in Christ

1. Jesus' resurrection confirmed every single word he spoke. This was the greatest accomplishment ever!

2. Jesus' resurrection means you have life. You were in him when he died. You were in him when he was raised.

3. The resurrection strengthens your faith and helps you to live for Christ. **The more you hear this story, the stronger your faith!**

4. So sing, "sing of this wondrous story!" Sing in praise to God.

5. Then tells others of this resurrection story.

Finally, if you believe Jesus lived, died, and rose again for sinners like you, you will have life. If you think Jesus was just a nice guy who set a good example, then you are still in your sins and will go to hell when you die. Pick wisely what you believe.