

The Triumph (得胜) of Jesus – Matthew 28:1-10

TSK, GreekLexicon, JFB, Geneva, Clarke, Poole, Trapp, Geisler, Rienecker, Henry, Gill, Calvin, Barnes, INT, Robertson, Vincent? Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: In spite of being charged, Jesus was declared innocent by Pilate who made several attempts to release him. But because Pilate loved himself too much, he didn't want to be inconvenienced, so he ordered that Jesus be tortured and killed. If the story ended there, it would have been a tragedy and a book or two might have been written about it.

But this story was not only about the execution(处决) of someone known to be innocent. This story continued to the triumphant resurrection (复活) of Jesus Christ. And he was the incarnate Son of God. This is why many, many books, in and out of the Bible, were written about his triumphant resurrection and its benefits. Hear this triumphant story again!

Our headings are:

The Resurrection – See it

The Resurrection – Hear it

The Resurrection – Speak it

Our goals are: That you will praise God that his Son earned a heavenly resurrection for you, and that you will promote that knowledge everywhere.

The Resurrection – See It

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 started out to go to Jesus' tomb to put spices (香料) on his dead body. But instead of a dead body, they saw evidence of the Lord's resurrection. It was significant that Jesus was raised from the dead on the Christian Sabbath. All 3 major feasts of the OT (Unleavened Bread 无酵饼 Passover 逾越节, Feast of Weeks/Pentecost 五旬节, Feast of Ingathering/Tents 住棚节) pointed to Christ and all 3 were celebrated on Sunday. (Also, remember that the Sabbath marked the completion of creation; now the 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 they got there, God shook the earth. (Seismos megas 地震) What is the significance of the earthquake? Earlier, when Jesus died and when there was a great earthquake, many dead people were raised to life...like Ezekiel 37 with the dry bones.

Matthew 27:51 ...and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;

But earthquakes also remind us that the wicked are judged by them.

Hebrews 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, 26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

So earthquakes are a reminder of God's power to destroy the wicked and to deliver the godly.

3. The women saw the angel God sent to remove the large stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb where Jesus' body was buried. Why didn't Jesus remove the stone himself? When the angel removed the stone it shows that 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.

4. The women saw the angel in the tomb, sitting and waiting to tell others the good news that Jesus was resurrected.

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

5. The angels (and there were two) wearing bright shining clothing...white as snow. One of the angels did the talking. It is silly to think that the 2 angels spoke the same words in unison(同声, 一致). (Abram had 3 visitors, but only one spoke.) Also, Mark used the words "white robes" and Luke used shiny robes. But when light shines on white, it becomes shiny... especially when the white object moves into the early morning sun. But what was the reason for white robes? White speaks of purity. This was good news. Imagine if they were dressed in black robes! Would that project a message of joy?

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

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

Lessons:

a. God will accomplish what he promised. Count on that. When he shook the earth it was a reminder of his power to do

what he promised. For example, God said Christ's kingdom will spread all over the earth, and it will. It might seem impossible, but God's words never fail. No religion can stop him from doing his work. **This means fear must go.** Today you have the full account of the resurrection. Are you reading it? **This is what will give you confidence in God's promises!**

b. The earthquake was one act by God, but it brought joy to one and terror to the other!

c. 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 all around, and while the men fled. Men don't have more courage than women. Only women who don't believe in Jesus are weak and afraid.

The Resurrection – Hear it

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 was remarkable for the women...and it was enough, but the angels then **proceeded to speak** to them so they could be first and **hearers of the resurrection.**

2. 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.

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 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.

4. The angels announced to the women: "He is risen." No one had stolen the body. No animal had eaten the body. Jesus was alive. They would see him themselves. Christ had to be crucified, descend to the grave and then be raised up. This was part of Christ's humiliation (降卑) process.

5. Then angel said to the women: "Look at the evidence...see some more...here is where he lay." One angel was where Jesus' head was, and other where his feet were.

6. Lessons:

a. Fear comes from ignorance of truth which results in a weak faith. Faith and fear are enemies...mortal enemies. So you have to know the Word of God well so you don't doubt him. **Are you carefully listening to the preached Word?**

b. Why all of the details given about the resurrection? All of these details of Christ's resurrection teach the truthfulness of his words Jesus had spoken before. You do the same thing. Details illustrate truth. You might say: We were on the bridge, it was in the moonlight...there was a light drizzle...then we saw the explosion...And this is what preaching is. It is a reminder of the details of what Christ has done for you so you could trust him more.

c. The angels in the tomb testified to the fact that Jesus was raised. The **soldiers saw** that he was raised. The **women saw he was raised.** He **appeared regularly,** especially on Sundays, to his disciples. Many saw him **for 40 days**...and at one time **over 500 people saw him.** Do you truly believe he is alive? Do you see him still working? He is.

d. Christ's resurrection was not just a fact. It confounded (使困惑) the wicked and it comforted the saints.

The Resurrection – Speak it

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 that the women could see evidence of the resurrection and hear the assurance that Jesus was risen, but truth has responsibilities. And you see the command of the angels to speak that message. **The message was clear: Christ was risen from the dead and Christ will meet with you soon.** This would have encouraged the dejected (沮丧的) hearts of the disciples. This would have prepared them to take the message of Jesus Christ to the world.

2. But why wait in Galilee? Why not come to 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.

3. Without delay, the women took that message to the disciples. But look what characterized their return: fear and great joy. They were still a little confused and fearful about what they would say. Who wouldn't, after meeting with angels? But they also knew that it was the truth...that 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."

4. Then Jesus met the women along the way. This surely removed the remaining fear (phobia) they had.

He said to them: **Rejoice.** (Hail) (The exact events of the resurrection are not given in order in the Gospels. It appeared that Mary Magdalene left the other women before she entered the tomb to take the message to Peter and the disciples. John 20. Then when she returned with the disciples, she had a direct encounter with him in the garden. With no ‘seeing’ or ‘hearing’ she spread false testimony.)

5. Being convinced that indeed he was risen, the women worshipped him, falling at his feet.

6. Then Jesus told them the same thing the angel had said to them: “Speak of the resurrection!” And they went on to do so, but his time with less fear.

7. Lessons:

a. Death was taken captive (被击败) by Jesus. It has no power over you. Rejoice. Tell others about it.

b. It is true that it is not dangerous to speak of Christ’s resurrection in Canada, but you do encounter mocking and contempt (轻蔑). But because the resurrection is so important 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!

c. Show people that Christ is alive and in you by the way you talk and act. This is the best way to display the resurrection of Jesus.

d. Without the resurrection, the Gospel means nothing. So the resurrection must be personal to you. 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.**

Apostle Paul said that if you don’t believe in the resurrection and you claim to be a Christian, you are most pitiable (可伶的) ! 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 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, **but you will see Me.** Because I live, **you will live also.**

e. How can you be reassured that Jesus is alive? Meet with him. When you gather for worship and share in the sacraments (圣礼), you are meeting Jesus. He then equips you to spread the Word of his resurrection everywhere. You meet with him in your home also when you worship.

Conclusion:

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

Beloved in Christ: Why was Christ’s triumph over death – his glorious resurrection - so important for you?

1. The resurrection of Jesus means you have life. You were in him when he died. You were in him when he was raised.

2. The reminder of the resurrection continues to strengthen your faith and helps you to live for Christ. Christ is alive and well in the hearts of men and women everywhere. He reveals himself in his Word and confirms it by his Holy Spirit.

3. So sing, “I love to tell the story.”

4. Then tells others of this story.

Finally, if you believe in the resurrection...that Christ was raised from the dead for you, then you will have life. If you think Jesus was just a neat guy who set a good example for you to follow, then you are still in your sins and will go to hell when you die. Pick wisely.