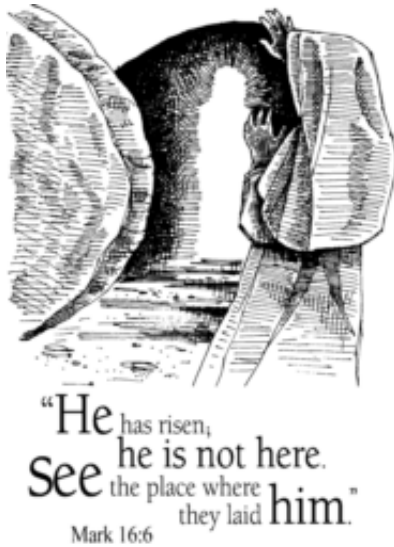


LESSON 7



JESUS' RESURRECTION

Scripture Texts: Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20-21

Christ's Resurrection is the completion of the plan that He came to establish by dying. Without the Resurrection all would have been ended and lost. It is the greatest of all miracles. The Resurrection stands joined with the Crucifixion at the highest point of history. The day following the Crucifixion was of the darkest the world has ever known.

It is a blow to any group to have their leader taken from them by death. But with the message of the Resurrection, the brokenhearted jumped up and faced a new day with glad hearts. Christ crucified and risen again was the main burden of the Apostles' preaching. Jesus never spoke of His approaching Crucifixion without speaking, also, of His Resurrection.

MEMORY VERSE: *Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.* *John 14:19*

Faithfulness Paid Off

When Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus buried Jesus in Joseph's new tomb as believing women stood nearby. Pilate, sick and tired of the whole affair, wearily consented to the sealing of the tomb.

Matthew 28:1-4 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week—before daybreak on Sunday. The women brought spices and ointments for the body of Jesus. **Great earthquake**—earth and Heaven alike were being shaken. A great turning point in history had arrived. Nature sounded out the event even as when Jesus died. The cause of this earthquake is told—**for the angel of the Lord descended**. Here was God Himself, His angels, and His people working in unity and harmony in His plan for all of His kingdom together. **Rolled back the stone**—man had sealed it. **Sat upon it**—symbolic of Heaven's contempt for man's power and estimate of events. Man's rules cannot hinder God's plan. **His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow**—reminding of Jesus' transfiguration. **Keepers did shake**—those guarding against the stealing of Jesus' body were frightened. Fear is one of mankind's greatest enemies. Faith is the only cure for fear. Not faith in ourselves, not faith in anything the world can offer, but faith in Jesus, who had been crucified, but now was raised from the dead and glorified. The removing of the stone had nothing to do with Christ's coming out of the tomb. It was only so the people could see the empty tomb.

Matthew 28:5-7 Angel . . . said . . . **Fear not ye . . . He is not here**—He did not belong here among the dead. He is life; He could not stay. The dark, dead tomb could not hold life and light, Jesus Christ. Thank God! He is now Savior of all the world. All the power of Satan could not hold Him there. **He is risen, as he said**—told them plainly, recalled Jesus' own words. Now they understood what before they did not. **Come, see the place**—no concealment. God wanted them to have proof. Truth can afford to lay bare the facts. The angels (Luke 24:4 tells of two) stayed to send the women with word to the disciples. **Go quickly, and tell . . . he is risen from the dead . . . he goeth before you into Galilee**. God wanted the facts of the Resurrection known. The command was GO and TELL. This is still the command to Christian believers concerning the good news of a living Christ. Christianity is a missionary religion. They were to meet Him at some point in Galilee. We have definite appointments with Him—our daily

devotions, the carrying of His righteousness in our everyday lives to others, attendance to church services of worship, and a faithful performance of the tasks He give us to do. He goes before us in all these things. When we keep these appointments, we see Him, not with the eyes of the flesh, but with spiritual discernment.

Jesus Met Them

Matthew 28:8-10 They—the women—**departed quickly . . . with fear and great joy**. In the early dawn, picture the women running **to bring his disciples word** of news never carried before. How their hearts beat and leaped for **great joy**. How can some teach that women have no part in the church? Here women carried the first God-sent message of Christ's resurrection. This was the beginning of a new position in the world for womanhood. Up to that time, even among the spiritual-minded, a woman was an inferior creature, the servant of a man. Yet it was to women that Jesus first appeared. From that time until the present, women have held a place of honor in the Church of God. **Jesus met them, saying, All hail**. Joy so overwhelmed them that they only **worshipped him**, falling down before Him, for they **held him by the feet**—the first service of divine worship of the risen Christ. **Then said Jesus . . . Be not afraid**—the familiar Jesus, tenderly driving away fear. **Go tell my brethren**—those weak, confused, doubting men who had forsaken Him when He needed them most, even denied Him. He in His moment of greatest triumph, called them **my brethren**. **That they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me**. What great anticipation this must have stirred within the hearts of these brethren! They did see Him there.

Christ, the Firstfruits

First Corinthians 15:20 **Now is Christ risen**—it is sure—**and become the firstfruits**—He was the first to have a glorified body. We will have such bodies at the coming Resurrection Day when all are raised from death.

Jesus actually arose in body. If not, He did not arise at all. Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee of ours. He said, **Because I live, ye shall live also** (John 14:19). When we arise, we will have bodies. Jesus did, and **we shall be like him** (1 John 3:2). Our bodies will **be fashioned like unto his glorious body** (Philippians 3:21). The saints can look to 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15 and find the following: Sown in corruption; raised in incorruption: Sown in dishonor; raised in glory: Sown in weakness; raised in power: Sown a natural body; raised a spiritual body: Sown in the image of the earthly; raised in the image of the Heavenly. Sown a mortal; raised an immortal: Sown in death; raised in victory. The Resurrection makes the difference.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Many things are worse than defeat, and compromise
with evil is one of them.**