

New Testament Sermon Outline 2/12

Resurrection of Christ

Introduction

The central doctrine or teaching of the Bible on the resurrection of Christ is this

Christ was God in flesh. That he died for our sin on the cross and that on the third day he rose again.

But the resurrection produced many, many emotions. And we look at some of these

This is how Matthew wrote about the resurrection.

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. While there a great earthquake occurred and an angel of the Lord appeared and rolled the stone away from the grave. The guards were in shock. Notice the angel spoke only to the women by saying, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay". Matt 28:1-6

Matthew is the only one that says that the the women and the guards actually saw the angel of the Lord descend from heaven and rolled back the stone.

See how the various people reacted. The guards shook with fear. The women were afraid. Two different emotions.

Terrified means; scared, petrified, alarmed, intimidated, awed, panic-stricken. That's what the guards felt.

Why were the guards terrified? For two reasons. First they had never seen heavenly intervention before. Secondly they knew they were about to be executed.

Elsewhere it is recorded that if one lost a prisoner you lose your life (See Acts 16:26-27, 12:18-19

What happened to them? They were paid off to keep quiet. (See Matt 28:11-15). The execution would have proved that Christ was risen.

1. THE TWO MARY'S

Now the two Mary's were afraid but not terrified. When an angel appears on a good mission, the first thing he says is do not be afraid.

Being afraid is almost always the first reaction to the appearance of an angel. When Gabriel appeared to Mary he had to say "Do not be afraid Mary."

This word however can be interpreted as to be in awe . Then the angel tells them why they should not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus

Anyone hear who is seeking Jesus, Don't be afraid because he loves you and wants to reveal himself to you in all his risen power to transform your life into a new experience that will take you through death and to your own personal resurrection from the dead.

When one comes into contact with the eternal it takes us out of our ordinary experience into the extra-ordinary. This is what the Mary's were seeing.

Notice one thing. Neither the guards or the two Mary's saw Jesus leave the tomb. The Angel of the Lord moved the stone but the grave was empty. He left it before the stone was rolled away.

We are reminded that '...God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.' 2 Tim 1:7 It is our fear not God's. He wants us to end with the peace of God that is beyond description.

Notice too that Jesus sent the angel to women not men. The women who had been with him from the beginning of his ministry. They had provided for him out of their own substance. Gave him rest in their houses. What a reward for loyalty!.

2. Mary has the first view of the risen Christ.

After Peter and John had visited the tomb, Mary stayed behind weeping. And this is what happened."Now when she had said this, she turned around (from looking into the grave) and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

Why did she not recognise Jesus?

I have heard many reasons for this but the obvious one was she was weeping. You cannot see properly while crying. But when she heard the personal words of Jesus, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Please notice Mary turned and said Rabboni. She was looking at the empty tomb and you will find nothing there to comfort or satisfy you. Belief in an empty tomb will not reveal Jesus to you. Only belief in the Risen Christ will do. As the Angel said to her, why seek the living among the dead. He is not risen come see where he lay. Religion that does not have the experience of the risen Lord at its centre is looking into an empty tomb. Do not make the same mistake.

3. THE DISCIPLES

They were not expecting the resurrection. They had gone back to fishing which was their old job. Everything had come to nothing. They thought Jesus was to become their king on earth and he ends up dead. When the women were told to go to Galilee and tell the apostles that Christ had risen from the dead he added the name Peter- 'tell Peter'. Jesus knew that if he did not receive a personal invitation he would be too embarrassed to meet Jesus. The way he had denied him still was lodged deep in his psyche.

4. DISBELIEF

Jesus had no problem with people not believing in him. Mark tells us that Mary Madeline went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. 'And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. '

Luke says their response was

And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ; Luke 24:11

How often men ignore the words of women!!! '

How could they trust Mary who had been demon possessed. Once your life has been damaged some people do not take you seriously. Anyway if Jesus had risen from the dead why did he not come to us first? We are the important ones not demon possessed women!

Paul would say later in his epistles that God has chosen the simple people, the lowly people to confound the mighty so the glory goes to him. If then I want to be used by God what do I do? Be humble before almighty God and he will exalt you. Exalt yourself and that is all you get, self-gratification.

In the Gospel of John we read that Peter and John both ran to the tomb and although John reached it first he hesitated but Peter flew by him and entered the tomb to find his clothes neatly arranged. That is sometimes the problem with our belief in Christ. We are looking at the empty tomb and clothes of what might have been in our lives rather than looking forward to having a living relationship with the risen Christ.

5. JESUS APPEARS TO THE ELEVEN

Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. John 20:19-20
If he had not said peace be unto you they would have been frightened. Thomas was not with them

6. DOUBTING THOMAS

Jesus had no problem with Thomas not believing. None what so ever. This is how Thomas's meeting with Jesus occurred.
John 20:24-30

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

Remember it was because the others had seen his wounds, they believed.

Eight days later Jesus appears again and said, "Peace to you!" "Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

The rest of the message is for us today.

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That You May Believe...'

Thomas said something no other disciple had ever said. My Lord and my God.

Lord is *cusios* meaning supreme in authority i.e. God. God is *Theos* meaning Deity.

He had the ultimate revelation.

He recognised Jesus as God the supreme authority.

To sum up. Jesus is saying to each one of us today. I am not in the tomb. I am not like other gods who are dead but still worshipped. I am not in a tomb but risen and ascended into heaven. All power is given to me and I do change lives. This God will take you through death into eternal life. However, when you come to know this risen Christ you have eternal life now. Meantime he does not neglect you but be with you right through to the end. Dare you trust the living Ascended Christ today?

Will you say to the Lord Jesus Christ what Thomas said all those years ago.

My Lord and my God?