

227 – He Is Risen Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1
GRBC 2011-05-15

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Confession of Sin: from Psalm 38

Lord, my guilt has overwhelmed me, like a burden too heavy to bear
I am about to fall, and my pain is ever with me
I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin
O Lord, do not forsake me; be not far from me, O my God
Come quickly to help me, O Lord my Savior!

Sermon: He Is Risen Matthew 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:17-20a + Amen

INTRODUCTION

Do you recall the painful, difficult lessons we have come through together, as we have studied the last phase of the Savior's ministry on earth?

The fruitless fig tree, and the other declarations of destruction on Israel and Jerusalem.

The prophecy that the disciples would be persecuted, and that when Jesus was counted a criminal, they would be considered criminals, too.

The prophecy that Judas would betray Him, and then the betrayal.

The prophecy that Peter would deny Him, and then the denial.

The several painful lessons about what wicked men are like when they are in positions of power.

The prophecy that Jesus would be leaving them, and they would have all kinds of trouble.

The Lord's painful prayer in the garden, when His disciples slept instead of praying.

The Lord's arrest, His unjust trials. His abuse at the hands of the Jews and the Romans.

His torturous death by crucifixion.

The awful breaking of the robbers' legs, and the piercing of Jesus' dead body with a spear.

The burial of Jesus, and the closing of the tomb with a great stone.

These things were necessary, because, as the Bible says in Daniel 9, Messiah the Prince came to deal with sin. All of this sin of man, all of this prophecy of trouble and judgment because of sin, are part of what Jesus said and did because He was here to deal with sin. And He dealt with it, head on.

Now, having done all, the Lord Jesus Christ has been buried. It is the third day, very early in the morning, while it is still dark. Let us see what happens.

Read the text: Matthew 28:1-8

BODY

- I. Faithful Women Set Out Toward Jesus' Tomb
 - A. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary of James, Salome by name, and certain other women
 1. These are remembered by name
 2. And well they should be
 - B. Their devotion to Jesus Christ is astounding
 1. They have been with Him all the way
 2. Now they are still honoring Him after death
 - C. They have bought spices with which to anoint His body
 1. Their great love for Him would not let them stop serving Him
 2. The burial had happened so fast, they had not been able to anoint His body, so that is the outlet their devotion found for expression
 - D. This is going to be a difficult job
 1. Their grief would be renewed and intensified
 2. The physical task would be smelly and in other ways distasteful
 3. There was a major obstacle---the stone
 - E. But they are going anyway!
 1. The difficulty does not deter them.
 2. Oh, that we can be such servants!
- II. Before the Faithful Women Arrive at Jesus' Tomb, an Angel Rolls Away the Stone
 - A. The tomb no longer holds the dead body of Jesus Christ; He has risen, and is gone from there
 - B. But no one can know that good news while the stone blocks the entrance
 - C. God's strength overcomes all obstacles to the Gospel being known
 1. There was a very large stone there
 - a. it was so large that several women together could not move it
 - b. the channel it rolls in is downhill toward the tomb
 2. The angel rolls it away by himself
 3. The angel sits on it
 - a. he despises it
 - b. an obstacle to the Gospel? No, it is something to sit on
 - D. God laughs at the schemes of evil men to oppose His Christ (Psalm 37:12-13)
 1. Their seal---what concern is that to Him?
 - a. The seal was a threat---if you break our seal, we'll know someone was here.
 - b. Ha! Yes, you will know that an angel of God was here to do God's will.
 2. Their guards---what can they do to Him?
 - a. These guards are supposed to stop anyone taking the body
 - b. But they can't even stand the sight of the glory of one of God's messengers
 - c. There's no fighting---the guards just fall over as if dead
- III. When The Faithful Women Arrive at Jesus' Tomb, His Body Is Not There
 - A. Mary Magdalene jumps to a conclusion
 1. It seems clear to her that someone has taken the body

2. She runs to tell Peter and John
- B. The other women are perplexed
 1. The Lord Jesus had told them this would be, but they didn't live by that word
 2. So they were perplexed
 3. They had been told the spiritual principle, but they were ignoring it and operating only on the physical that they were used to
 4. APPLICATION: Let us live by His Word, and so not be perplexed
- IV. Angels at the Tomb Tell the Faithful Women that He Is Risen
 - A. The angels appeared to the women
 - B. The women were afraid, and bowed down
 - C. The angel told them not to be afraid
 - D. The angel announced the resurrection of Jesus Christ
 1. I know that you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified
 2. Why do you seek the living among the dead?
 3. He is not here
 4. He has risen
 - a. Let's stop here a moment and consider this---He is risen!
 - b. This is all our hope: that He died for sins, that He was buried, and that He is risen!
 - c. The Bible says that if He had died and been buried, but was not risen, all our hope would be in vain; we would still be dead in our sins
 - d. This is what we believe---that He is risen!
 5. as He said
 - a. the angel asked if they remembered Jesus' words
 - b. the women did remember His words
 - E. The angel showed the women the place in the tomb where Jesus lay
 1. what we believe about Jesus Christ we have not seen for ourselves
 2. but it is based on confirmed, verified, written testimony from those who did see it
 - F. The angel commanded the women to go tell the good news
 1. quickly
 2. to His disciples
 3. to Peter in particular
 - a. Peter mentioned by name
 - b. He who had sworn that he didn't even know Jesus
 - c. Were they, or was he sure that he still counted as a disciple?
 - d. Jesus let it be known that Peter still was His disciple
 4. that He was going before them to Galilee
 5. that there they would see Him, as He said to them
 - G. The angel finished by affirming that he had told the women the good news
 1. The angel had discharged his duty by telling the women the message
 2. This is a precious truth to those who grasp it
 3. We are charged to tell the message, having done so, we have done
 4. Are we charged with changing the heart?
 5. Are we charged with producing a certain response?
- V. The Faithful Women Leave the Tomb to Tell the Disciples
 - A. They flee from the tomb quickly

- B. They tremble, and are amazed
 - C. They are afraid, so they don't speak to anyone on the way
 - D. But they also have great joy
 - E. They run to tell the disciples
 - 1. What was their message?
 - a. We know that Jesus was a good, righteous man sent from God
 - b. We saw Him killed unjustly
 - c. We saw Him buried
 - d. We know that He is no longer in the tomb; an angel said He is risen from the dead
 - 2. Women of today, that is essentially your message.
 - 3. To whom will you tell it?
- VI. (Time Allowing) Forever Changed
- A. is our view of death and the grave
 - 1. not to be feared
 - 2. they have no hold over us who are in Christ
 - B. is our view of women
 - 1. the woman is the one who first ate the fruit; she has suffered for it, too
 - 2. the woman has been enabled to be faithful all the way to the grave
 - 3. now the woman is given a special grace from the Lord---she gets to know first that death is conquered, Christ is risen, and gets to tell the men
 - C. is our view of the sabbath
 - D. is our view of salvation

CONCLUSION

Part One: The angels announce Christ's resurrection to the women at the tomb
Part Two: Mary Magdalene tells Peter and John; they come; they depart; Jesus appears to M.M.
Part Three: The Jewish rulers conspire with the guards to deny the resurrection
Part Four: Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus
Part Five: Jesus appears to Peter and to James (both mentioned very briefly)
Part Six: Jesus appears that evening to the eleven (but without Thomas)
Part Seven: Jesus appears to the eleven with Thomas
Part Eight: Jesus appears by the sea and speaks with Peter
Part Nine: Jesus appears to over 500 at once
Part Ten: Jesus gives "the great commission"
Part Eleven: Jesus opens the disciples' understanding (Luke 24:44-49)
Part Twelve: Jesus sends the disciples to the end of the earth (Acts 1:3-8)
Part Thirteen: Jesus ascends; the angels promise His return

Matthew 28:1-8 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. (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. (3) His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. (4) And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. (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. (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." (8) So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Mark 16:1-8 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. (2) Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. (3) And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" (4) But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away--for it was very large. (5) And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. (6) But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. (7) But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." (8) So they

went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Luke 24:1-8 Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. (2) But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. (3) Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. (4) And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. (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.

John 20:1-3 Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." (3) Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.

Martin:

Mark 16:1 refers to Saturday evening, when the bazaars were open for a few hours

Ryken:

If you don't believe what Jesus has said, you are left perplexed.

Savastio:

It is evident the women did not expect to find Jesus resurrected.

There has been willing weakness here---now the power!

Ferguson:

Too many continue to think Jesus Christ as being among the dead.

Do you live as if this resurrection makes any difference to you?

(JRY: For me it provides an inner joy that keeps bubbling up to the surface to overcome gloom that descends because of sin.)

Sproul:

The "great stone" (v. 60) that sealed His grave site was set on an incline in a channel cut in the rock, making it easier to cover the tomb by rolling the stone downhill. It took several men to roll the stone back up the incline, which discouraged grave robbers and wild animals from trying to enter the tomb.

INTRODUCTION TO THIS PART OF THE SERIES: THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

On making use of the multiple accounts of the resurrection

Barnes:

"the sacred narrative of an event is what it is declared to be by all the evangelists."

"neither of them professes to relate facts in the precise order in which they occurred"

On the nature of this study

JRY: It seems to me that I should settle the people's minds in the historical witness, and save expounding on all the significance of the resurrection for other times.