

Graveside Service for Griselda Orozco  
 July 18, 2018  
 Calvary Hill Cemetery  
 Dallas, Texas

Message:

We have now gathered in this place to lay to rest Griselda Orozco, this beloved one, who was so precious to her mother and grandmother, and to her children and to her brothers and sisters and to many of us here.

At the funeral of my grandmother when I was about 14 years old, the minister said:

*At a time like this, we have to look to the Scriptures....*

If there is ever a time we need to look to the scriptures, it is at a time like this.

In the face of that last and great enemy of our lives and relationships, the enemy of Death, man's word is not good enough. We must have God's Word. We must hear from God himself to find comfort and meaning to life and death. Let us hear what God would say to us at this time:

**Psalm 90:1-2**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
 in all generations.

<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth,  
 or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
 from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

God has always been there. Before there was a universe, God was there. Before we were ever born, God was there. He is the eternal, ever living One, and we can trust him.

Jesus said this in John 14:1-3:

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. John 14:1-3

You see, Jesus is working behind the scenes. He is doing something in heaven now for his people. We cannot see it, but he is preparing something great and wonderful for us. And he will come one day to take his people to be with him.

In another place Jesus was speaking to his friend Martha:

**John 11:25-26**

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” Hear these amazing words again....[re-read]

Jesus is saying so much here – he is saying that he is the key to life because he is the resurrection from the dead – in him is life – He is, in fact, the creator of all life and the sustainer of all life and if we believe in him we shall live even if we die.

Jesus promises us that if we believe in him we shall live even if we die! This is the word from God that we need to hear at a time like this.

What is the most important thing, the crucial thing, that we need to know at a time like this? It is that Jesus rose from the dead.

Hear what the apostle Paul wrote, who, by the way, had seen, the risen Jesus:

### **1 Cor. 15:20-21**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

Here is this terrible word here: “death.” We hate it; it is our sworn enemy. We hate it because it takes our loved ones from us and one day it will take us from them. But death does not have the last word because Jesus went into death and defeated it and broke its chains forever.

He arose from the dead, he came out of the tomb where they had laid him and he appeared to his disciples and he was taken up from them and he went back to heaven and is there now, ministering to his people here on earth by the power of his Spirit. And he is preparing to return again and raise all people from the dead but take his own people to be with him on the new earth that will come down from heaven.

What all this means is that for the Christian, the follower of Jesus, death is not the victor but Jesus is the Victor and all those who love him and follow him will be able to keep doing that into all of eternity future.

Griselda has gone on from us and she has met her Maker, her Creator. God has taken her in his time – it was not our time, but it was his time. God’s ways are higher than our ways and his thoughts greater than our thoughts. Even though it’s hard, we have to trust him. And we can trust him to carry out his purposes and his will, though from our limited perspective we may not understand it now. But he is just and he is merciful. Even in this great loss of Griselda, his invisible hand is at work and he has brought about his purpose in her life. He ordained from before the foundation of the world that she would be taken from us just before her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. That was his plan, but we did not know it. And when it came it devastated us. But what about us? What about our lives? One day our turn will also come and we must leave this earth.

Will we prepared to meet our Creator? We must not wait until that day because then it will be too late. We must prepare now – and not delay. What can we do? What should we do?

We must come before Jesus Christ, the one who died for sins and who was resurrected three days later. Now he sits at the right hand of God in heaven and he rules over all things in heaven and earth.

There is no other Savior in the history of the world who can save us from our sins. We must come to Jesus. It would be good not just to walk but to run to him, and fall at his feet and take him as our own Lord and Savior. All who come to him he will not turn away. Come then, come to Christ, for his arms are open wide, and he is ready to receive you.

Hear the promises of God:

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Rom. 10:13

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.” Acts 16:31

Jesus said,

<sup>28</sup> Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

The key message at a Christian funeral service is the great reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. All who thrust in the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ to save them from their sins will be forgiven and receive eternal life.

*Hear again the Holy Scriptures as we grieve the loss of Griselda:*

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matt. 5:4

This is the Word of God to us today. We are mourning, but we shall be comforted.

*Hear again the scriptures:*

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted

and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

The Lord knows your heart is broken and your spirit is crushed, but he is near you, he understands. Jesus himself wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. He understands the great pain of death, the great pain of separation. He is close to you. He will help you. He will comfort you. He will give you strength. And if the living God, the creator of heaven and earth, the one who gives us life and breath and all we have, is close to us, we can make it. The comfort of God’s Holy Spirit, the living presence of Jesus Christ our Lord, will be with you and give you great help and comfort.

Let us listen to God today. Let us trust in him. Let us go to the Scriptures:

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16