THE RESURRECTED REDEEMER

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**DATE: 12/2/2018 am**

**TEXT: John 20:1-18**

**INTRODUCTION**

Today, we are going to look at the greatest day in the history of Humanity

(at Least according to Christians)

Today we will look at the great truth that Jesus Christ …

Who was crucified on a Roman cross and died,

… Rose from the dead just three days later!

This one truth is what sets Christianity apart from every other system of religious belief in the world!

All other religious leaders have died

Buddha is dead! Mohammed is dead! Confucius is dead!

Every founder of every religion that has ever existed has died and is buried (period)

However, only One, has been said to have risen again from the dead!

If we were to strip Christianity of the doctrine of the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Then our faith would be no more than just any other religious system

If Jesus did not rise from the dead and is not alive today,

Then everything He did was in vain; His death was a waste, and all of His teachings are simply of non-affect!

If Jesus Christ is not alive, then we have no salvation, there is no hope for the world and we are all headed to uncertain future!

Now, having said that, I want to say that Jesus Christ is Not dead, but Alive! Amen

Because as we come to the 20th chapter of John's Gospel we find an Empty Tomb

And some of the Greatest Testimony ever given

**Matthew 28:6 – *“He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay”***

John paints for us the portrait of **Jesus - The Resurrected Redeemer!**

We’ll see in these verses that Jesus is very much Alive and Well this morning!

As we celebrate the truth that Jesus lives …

I would like to take a few minutes to look into the Resurrection and what it should mean to every one of us

Thank God, because we serve a Resurrected Redeemer, we can have hope in this life and even beyond this life and on into eternity

Let's look together today at **Jesus - The Resurrected Redeemer**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. “MARY” AT THE TOMB – vs. 1-11**

The Bible tells us here that Mary Magdalene was the first to the Tomb that Sunday morning

**A. Her ‘Discovery’ – vs. 1-10**

**v. 1 a -** Mary comes to the tomb well before daylight

**v. 1 b -** When she arrives, she finds the stone rolled away and the tomb empty

**v. 2 -** Immediately, she runs back to the disciples and tells them that the body of Jesus is missing from the tomb

**v. 3** **-** When they heard this, Peter and John ran to the tomb to see what had happened

**vs. 4-7** - When they arrived, they find the tomb as Mary had described it

After they see these things, they return home (?)

**v. 8 -** John, at least, appears to have believed that the Lord was alive from the dead

Let me just say a couple of things about the Linen Clothes – **vs. 5-7** (**Mk 15:46**)

The Bible says that the linen clothes were *lying*

The literal translation of this phrase means that they were *“still in their folds”*

This means that they looked exactly like they were …

… still around the body of Jesus, but flat

Apparently, the cloths still resembled the shape of the body of Jesus

The truth to note here is that the scene is very orderly and undisturbed

Had the body been taken by grave robbers or others,

The wrappings around the body would not have been removed,

And if they had been removed, they would not have been left in such an orderly fashion

Then, there is the matter of the napkin (head wrap)

Had the body been removed by others, the napkin would merely have lain where it had fallen

**v. 7 -** Instead, it had been folded and laid in a place by itself

(Why would anyone trying to steal a body want to unwrap it first?)

Instead, everything speaks of calmness and order in the empty tomb of Jesus!

**Her ‘Discovery’**

**B. Her ‘Devotion’ – v. 11 …**

Peter and John Leave (What was that all about?)

Mary stayed behind to mourn her loss

Why did she stay? Because she loved Jesus!

The Bible tells us that Mary had been delivered from a wicked life

**Mark 16:9 – *“Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils”***

**Luke 7:47 – *“Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; therefore she loves much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little”***

She loved Jesus for what He had done in her life

She was truly Devoted to Him

And the truly redeemed soul will love the Lord Jesus!

When we stop to think of all He has done in our life,

How can we not love Him like we should?

Mary sets the right example of love and devotion for all the followers of the Lord

The question that comes to mind this morning is this ...

*Do you love Him as you ought to?*

**Her ‘Devotion’**

**C. Her ‘Darkness’ – v. 11 …**

Mary had her eyes focused on the *physical evidence* rather than the *spiritual answer!*

All she saw was an empty tomb

It never entered her mind to consider the greater truth that Jesus was alive

We might as well weep with her … but for the truth

The Truth, that He is alive and no longer dead!

If it were true that Jesus was dead today,

Then Paul tells us, we are the most miserable

**I Corinthians 15:19 – *“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable”***

Yet, many of God's children live as if Jesus is dead

There is no joy and no excitement in their lives

There is no deep burning desire to worship and serve

Were all to busy keeping up with ourselves!

We often act as if we are trapped in some dead religion that kills our joy and leaves us feeling miserable

If you feel that way, then something is definitely wrong

We serve the very One who went to Calvary, died for sin and three days later Rose from the dead to live forevermore! Thank God

**“MARY” AT THE TOMB**

**II. THE “MESSAGERS” AT THE TOMB – vs. 11-13**

**v. 11-*“she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher”***

When Mary looks into the Tomb again, she sees two Angels

**A. Their ‘Presence’ – v. 12 …**

Two in the Bible, is the number of Witness

These angels have been dispatched from God to bear witness to the truth that Jesus was alive from the dead

Their message is one of Assurance

**Matthew 28:5, 6 – *“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified” “He is not here: for He is risen, as He said (He Would). Come, see the place where the Lord lay”***

**Their ‘Presence’**

**B. Their ‘Posture’ – v. 12 …**

Notice that they’re ***“sitting”***

A posture of absolute peace!

If the body of Jesus had been missing or if there had been trouble at the tomb,

You can be sure that these angels would have been busy

Yet, their sitting, as if to say -*Everything is OK*

**Their ‘Posture’**

**C. What they ‘Picture’**

It’s a Picture of *Rest*

These angels appear to be at Perfect Rest

It’s as if they are telling us - *The work is over, we can all rest now!*

In fact, every other time angels are pictured in the Bible, they are always busy

They are shown carrying messages, dispatching the enemy and attending to the business of God

Here we see them at Rest!

What a lesson for us this morning!

Because Jesus lives, we can rest from our labors

God doesn't want us to try and please Him for salvation

He doesn't want us being good to get into Heaven

He wants us to trust the death and resurrection of His Son and nothing more!

If someone will come to Jesus by simply faith,

He will save that soul and let it rest

Rest from their self-righteousness, their religious works and all their futile efforts to please Him

All He wants is your faith!

**D. Their ‘Plan’ – v. 13 …**

***“And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?”***

**v. 13** indicates that these angels wanted to stir up something within the heart of Mary

Their question is designed to get Mary to think

It is as if they were asking …

*Should you be weeping? Doesn't this empty tomb tell you something?*

But, Mary, like so many of us, seems determined to live by Sight rather than to walk by Faith

How often we fail to discover the deep spiritual blessings because we refuse to look beneath the surface to see what the Lord is trying so desperately to reveal to us!

**“MARY”**

**THE “MESSAGERS”**

**III. THE “MESSIAH” AT THE TOMB – vs. 14-17**

After being comforted by the Angels, Mary steps back from the Tomb only to find Someone else standing there

**A. Mary’s ‘Confusion’ – v. 14 …**

***“she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus”***

She sees a man standing there, but thru her tears doesn't recognize that it’s the Lord

Isn't that just like us?

We have all His promises, yet we fail to see Him in our circumstances time and time again

Yet, He is always involved in what involves us

**Hebrews 13:5 – *“…for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

If you will look, you will always find Jesus during your time of need

He’ll be standing somewhere nearby!

**B. The ‘Confrontation’ – v. 15 a …**

Jesus now asks Mary 2 questions that are designed to bring her to Faith

**1.** ***“Why weepest thou?”***

He asking …

*Why do you weep when you should be rejoicing?*

**2.** ***“Whom seekest thou?”***

*Why are you looking for Someone that is alive among the dead?*

These questions were designed to remind Mary of what He has already told them

-- That He was the Resurrection and the Life

**John 11:25 – *“Jesus said unto her, I am the Resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”***

-- That He is the One who would lay down His life and take it again

**John 10:18 – *“No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father”***

-- And that He was The Way, the Truth and the Life

**John 14:6 – *“… I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

**C. The ‘Call’ – v. 16 …**

It seems that Mary turned back around after meeting Jesus and continues to weep while looking into the empty Tomb

When Mary doesn't respond to His questions,

The Lord simply, tenderly calls her by name - ***“Mary”***

-- This isn't the voice of the Creator calling the creature

-- This isn't the voice of the Master calling the servant

-- This is the voice of the Shepherd calling one of His sheep

His call is instantly recognized …

**John 10:4 – *“And when He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them, and the sheep follow Him: for they know His voice”***

One word from the Great Shepherd and the Weeper is transformed into the Worshiper!

Her Sorrow is changed to Shouting

*All at the sound of His lovely voice!*

Notice that Mary immediately calls Him ***“Master”***

She responds to His voice by affirming her love and devotion

This ought to be the immediate response of every child of God when they hear His voice

And when we hear it, God help us to say, “Yes, Lord!”

**D. The ‘Command’ – v. 17 a**

Mary must have flung her arms around His feet

Because He tells her to stop

Why did He tell her this?

The verse cont. ***“for I am not yet ascended to My Father:”***

You see, He had some things He had to take care of

He was about to step into the presence of His Father and offer His blood upon the mercy seat as the perfect and final atonement for the sins of mankind,

**Hebrews 9:12-14 – *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” “For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:”***

***“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”***

**“MARY”**

**THE “MESSAGERS”**

**THE “MESSIAH”**

Let me Close with …

**IV. THE “MESSAGE FROM” THE TOMB – vs. 17 b, 18 …**

**A. An ‘Unusual’ Message**

Mary was told to go and tell the Disciples that Jesus was alive and that He ascended back to the Father

It was to be a Message of Hope and Blessing to those who Mourned His death

This kind of Message was not delivered every day!

**B. An ‘Unchanging’ Message**

There are 3 parts of this message that never will change

**1.** Jesus is Alive

**Revelation 1:18 – *“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death”***

**2.** We are still commanded to Come and See, then Go and Tell

The world needs to hear from people who have been to the Empty Tomb and know that Jesus is alive

The world needs to hear of the Risen Saviour!

**3.** All who come to the tomb and see,

And who will place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ …

Will be saved from their sins and will be born again

In the 6,000 years of recorded human history, the most important message that has ever been heard is this,

***“He is not here, for He is risen!”***

Do you know the Risen Saviour today?

Are you trusting Jesus for your soul's salvation?

As a Christian, it’s obvious that you have come and seen,

The question is, are you Going and Telling?

What difference is the Resurrection making in your life on a daily basis?

You've heard today that He Lives, my question is …

What are you doing about it?

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**“MARY” AT THE TOMB**

**THE “MESSAGERS” AT THE TOMB**

**THE “MESSIAH” AT THE TOMB**

**THE “MESSAGE FROM” THE TOMB**