

空坟墓的奇妙经历——马可福音 16:1-8

The Wondrous Experience of the Empty Tomb — Mark16:1-8

Introduction and Outline

- Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Mark 16:1-8 (NASB1995)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.² Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.³ They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”⁴ Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him.⁷ But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’”⁸ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- To briefly summarize the significance of Jesus’ resurrection: The resurrection 1) proves that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 1:4); 2) is the evidence of the believer's justification by God (Romans 4:25); 3) provides the believer with the power to overcome sin and live a holy life (Romans 6:9-11); 4) locks in the believer's hope of eternal life (1Corinthians 15).
- However, it does not seem to be an easy thing to fully believe this marvelous truth. There were those in the Corinthian church who doubted the resurrection, and so Paul wrote an entire chapter on the subject. Even the disciples who experienced Jesus' resurrection firsthand did not fully believe in His resurrection until after He had appeared to them over and over again for forty days.
- This passage records the very first few people who learned of Jesus' resurrection firsthand. Their experience of the empty tomb has some interesting connections to believers' experience of the risen Lord today.
- Outline:
 - Title: The Wondrous Experience of the Empty Tomb
 - 1. Deep Affection (v1)
 - 2. Poor Planning (vv. 2-4)
 - 3. Astonished Fear (v.5)
 - 4. Good News (v.6)
 - 5. Mission Assignment (v.7)
 - 6. Reverential Fear (v.8)

Deep Affection (v1)

- “Mary Magdalene, and Mary ..., and Salome”: These were the three women who stood by the cross in the previous chapter and watched Jesus breathing his last. We have seen their love for Jesus earlier, and here is another expression of their love.
- “When the Sabbath was over”: that is, after sunset on Saturday night. The original text has a sense of “finally over”, for the sisters out of their love for Jesus couldn't wait to anoint His body with spices.
- “Bought species”: Luke says they went home on Friday night immediately to “prepare the spices and perfumes” (Luke 23:56). Apparently, they didn't have enough in stock, so they went to the store after Sabbath on Saturday night to buy more. The actual anointing, however, would have to wait until morning, so they made a plan to do it together early Sunday morning.
- “Anoint him”: Jewish burial practices consisted of four steps: washing, anointing, wrapping, and burial, all of which involved the use of spices, with the purpose of temporarily mitigating the putrid smell so that relatives and friends could have a few more days to visit their tomb and mourn.

【Analysis】 From a practical point, what the sisters did was totally unnecessary. Earlier on Friday evening, Joseph and Nicodemus had already wrapped Jesus' body in a hundred pounds of spices (John 19:39). How much practical contribution could a few Galilean country folks add to the extravagant amount of spices of the two rich men?

【Conclusion】 What these sisters did had no practical value and was not in keeping with tradition. Its only purpose is to express their genuine love for Jesus. Love sometimes makes people do things that seem useless from a practical standpoint.

2 Corinthians 9:7 “Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**”

Poor Planning (vv. 2-4)

- “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”: The Jews used a disc-shaped stone as the door to the tomb, and verse 4 says, “It was extremely large.” These women didn't even think about this problem until now. Seriously poor planning.

【Supplement】 Their problem, in reality, was more than just the stone. The tomb had been sealed and guarded by soldiers (Matthew 27:62-66). These were circumstances they weren't even aware of.

- “Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away”: God had helped them with all their problems. The angel's rolling away of the stone was accompanied by an earthquake, and the soldiers all fled for fear (Matthew 28:2-4). The women may have planned poorly, but God had it all worked out! He even sent an angel to fix their planning problems.

【Insight】 What God wants us to do, He will surely **remove all obstacles and provide us with all we need.**

Astonished Fear(v.5)

- “... saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe”: there were two angels (Luke 24:4) and Mark focuses on the main speaker. Such differences in the details of the Gospels are due to the fact that they are first-hand testimonies written independently.
- “And they were amazed”: Literally “feared greatly”. The reason for fear, on the one hand, was because of the angel's frightening appearance; and on the other hand, it was because of the angel's glory which brings the sinner into the presence of the radiance of God's holiness. The most natural reaction of sinners in the presence of God's holiness is great fear, for God's holiness entails His wrathful judgment of sin.

Good News (v.6)

- “He has risen; He is not here”: This is the first time in all of human history where the Gospel message is proclaimed with such clarity. Why these sisters, we can't help but wonder? Why not first proclaim the good news of the resurrection to those disciples?

【Answer】 Because they were the first to go to the tomb looking for Jesus. If the disciples had gone together with them, they would've also heard the first angelic proclamation, rather than indirectly from the women's mouth.

【Insight】 The closer a believer gets to the Lord and the more he participates in His work, the more he will personally witness and experience His power. You have to be there to experience His power; if you are not there, you cannot experience it personally. Those who are present when God's people meet for worship, present when the Word of God is taught, present when saints pray together for the work of the gospel, present when brothers and sisters serve one another—these are the ones who get to experience God's work personally the most.

- Behold, here is the place where they laid him” : Seeing is believing; the angel invites the women to bear first-hand witness to Jesus' resurrection.

Mission Assignment(v.7)

- “Go, tell his disciples He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him”: The mission announced by the angel has both a near and far element. Here is the near mission—to gather the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee. If you know the significance of this Galilean gathering, you know there's a more far-reaching mission implied here.

【Supplement】 gathering is the one in 1 Corinthians 15:6 where Jesus “appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time” after His resurrection; and it's also the one in Matthew 28:16-20 where Jesus issued the Great Commission on “the mountain which Jesus had designated” in Galilee.

【Great Commission】 Matthew 28:18-19 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations.....**”

- “Just as He told you”: Jesus had foretold them of this event just a few days ago (Mark 14:28)

【Supplement】 The disciples did not immediately obey this command. From the other gospels it is clear that they remained in Jerusalem for quite a few days. Jesus also stayed with them in Jerusalem, appearing again and again, comforting them and encouraging them, until finally they were at last fully convinced of the good news of the resurrection. Only then did they remember Jesus' command and set out for Galilee.

【Insight】 The disciples were very slow in faith, but God still used them as leaders of the early church. The weaker the disciples, the more God could manifest His power in them.

- “and Peter”: Two extremely precious words. Why is Peter singled out? Because Peter had just denied the Lord three times! One pastor said, “[Peter] must have been tortured with the memory of his disloyalty, and suddenly there came a special message for him. It was characteristic of Jesus that he thought not of the wrong Peter had done him but of the remorse he was undergoing. Jesus was far more eager to comfort the penitent sinner than to punish the sin.”

【Insight】 God is the God of second chances. The one thing most needed for those who have failed is a second chance, and God constantly gives it to believers. We can always be revived by God through confession and repentance, and become a vessel He could use all over again.

Reverential Fear(v.8)

- “Went out and fled from trembling astonishment afraid”: Our knowledge of the resurrection wouldn't be complete until it produces a deep reverence for Jesus.

【Supplement】 Not only fear, but Matthew 28:8 says they left “**with fear and great joy.**” As Psalm 2:11 says, we shall “Worship the Lord with reverence, And **rejoice with trembling.**”

- “Said nothing to anyone”: They didn't talk about the resurrection to anyone else, but ran straight to the disciples to tell them (Matthew 28:8). This was in obedience to the angel's command. Reverence for Jesus always produces an obedient life.

Summary

Think about these six aspects of sisters' empty-tomb experience; do they also describe your experience with the Risen Lord? May God help us truly understand what the empty tomb means for our lives.