

Resurrection Day - Matthew 28:1-9

1: In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.

2: And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3: His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

5: And the angel answered and said unto the women, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which 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, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you".

8: And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9: And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "All hail". And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him.

The women came to the tomb at dawn to embalm the body of Jesus. The stone at the door of the tomb would be impossible for them to move. That is why they said one to another, "Who shall roll away the stone?" Mankind's path to salvation is, apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, blocked by the forces of darkness. Like those women we need someone to move that huge rock which is blocking the road to Jesus. Philosophy tries and fails. Man's heart of stone is only capable of doubt, uncertainty, and unbelief. Who will remove our blindness and helplessness and exchange death for life and darkness for light? As one generation buries another, the tombs keep the bodies of those departed. Who can make an end to this mortality? Is there a certainty of hope beyond the grave? Despite His resurrection men continue in unbelief. We know that is not all there is. There must be more than coming into this world just to die. There must be a purpose. We hope that there is something beyond this life. There has be a way out of the tomb. So we cry out, "Who will deliver me from this body of death"? "Where is He who will roll away my stone?"

The women faced 3 difficulties:

[a] The stone of itself was huge and was sealed; [b] It was guarded by Roman soldiers; and [c] Death seemed to have overcome Jesus.

The demonic forces were rejoicing, thinking they won. They were wrong! The women who loved the Savior found the answer. They came to the tomb of Christ, but it is empty. Jesus is risen! This is the answer to the world's questions and problems. There is life after death for those who are His. He lives! To anyone without hope, come to Him today because Jesus is alive. We have God's promise that the dead in Christ shall rise onto eternal life. Our tears will be wiped away. The Believer's grave is not a place for weeping. It is our transition to immortality. It is like a dressing room where we exchange the clothes of death for those of life.

Conclusion: When we realize what He did and does, will we faithfully follow and serve Him? What will we do with the fresh start we have today?