

Lesson 13 – 23 January 2011

The Resurrection of the King

Lesson Scope: [Matthew 28](#)

Lesson Focus

With the Passover observance about to begin, Jesus' body was safely laid in Joseph's tomb and a great stone placed over the entrance. The small group that was gathered around the sepulcher paid their last tributes to Jesus. To the small band of Jesus' disciples, hope had died, but to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem, the spirit of festivity was high.

Had the disciples forgotten what Jesus said would happen in three days? Even in the midst of all the current commotion, the chief priests remembered this saying of Christ and secured a watch from Pilate to seal and guard the tomb so that Jesus would not escape. These efforts were futile and worthless, because God had another plan. The efforts of the angel were painless and simple as the great stone was rolled away from the grave and the power of Christ's resurrection revealed.

The empty tomb proclaims Jesus' triumph over death and Satan. To the believer His resurrection grants the power to "walk in newness of life" and the prospect of exchanging mortal life for immortality.

As you read the resurrection account from the other Gospel writers, it is not always easy to understand how the various details fit together. While there seems to be some contradiction, it is good to remember that each writer is writing from his perspective, and details will vary. Keep the focus on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead. The evidence was clear and real, even though many refused to believe it at first. Jesus' promise to be with us all the time to the end of the world is a very precious and comforting promise to the believer, especially as we near the end times and sense the uncertainties all around us in the world.

Lesson Aim: To understand the significance of Jesus' resurrection.

Theme Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:20-21. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead."

Lesson Text

The Hold of Death Broken

[Matthew 28:1-6](#)

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 sepulchre. ²And, 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. ³His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: ⁴And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. ⁵And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. ⁶He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Heart of the Believers Quickened

[Matthew 28:7-10](#)

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

⁹And 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. ¹⁰Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

The Schemes of Man Defeated

[Matthew 28:11-15](#)

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. ¹²And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, ¹³Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. ¹⁴And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. ¹⁵So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

The Disciples Empowered for Service

[Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach

all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Questions for Study

The Hold of Death Broken

1. What does Jesus' rising the first day of the week signify?
2. What role did the angel fill at the tomb?

Heart of the Believers Quickened

3. Of what significance was Jesus' arrangement to meet His disciples in Galilee?

4. How does Jesus' resurrection provide joy in the believer's life?

The Schemes of Man Defeated

5. Why were the chief priests so intent on defying the clear evidence of Jesus' resurrection?

6. How might we hinder the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives today?

The Disciples Empowered for Service

7. Detail the particular duties given in the Great Commission. In what practical ways can these be fulfilled?

8. What does God's abiding presence provide for His followers?

Analyzing the Passage

Truly this was the Lord's Day "as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week" (Matthew 28:1). God's messenger was prepared to meet the first comers to the tomb and herald forth the joyful message, "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said" (Matthew 28:6). There was no foul play—all was in time with God's eternal purposes.

The great earthquake (Matthew 28:2) was God's way of again calling attention to these momentous times. The angel did not roll the stone away so that Jesus could rise, but rather that men could look in and see that He had risen (Matthew 28:6). The keepers revealed their helplessness as they trembled and became as dead men (Matthew 28:4).

The chief priests contrived to create a false impression, but among themselves there was no such thing. Their worst fears—and perhaps greater—were realized.

"All power is given unto me.... Go ye therefore" (Matthew 28:18, 19) affirms that Christ's power accompanies the believer as he fulfills the Great Commission.

Principles and Applications

The Hold of Death Broken

1. Jesus' resurrection (it the dawning of the first day signifies His place as the Morning Star of our-redemption (Matthew 28:1). Truly it was the darkest of hours as the darkness of night blended with the darkness of disappointment and fear in the hearts of those closest to Jesus. But as the first day of the new week was dawning, He arose from the dead. As light out of darkness, Jesus came forth, and new hope and joy sprang up where deepest darkness had been. That newness of light and hope becomes the experience of every believer as the Daystar arises in his heart.

2. The open sepulcher proclaims the risen Lord (Matthew 28:2). The angel did not need to roll the stone away to let Jesus out. The tomb was already empty. However, the open grave allowed those on the outside to look in and see for themselves that Christ was risen. For some, seeing is believing. Thomas believed because he saw with his own eyes. Jesus pronounced a blessing on those who believe Him without seeing Him.

The Heart of the Believers Quickened

3. The resurrection is the basis for great joy (Matthew 28:8). The women at the tomb had their sorrow turned into joy as they heard that Jesus had risen. When Jesus met them personally, He said, "All hail" meaning "be well of and be glad." They went quickly and joyfully to tell the disciples the good news. "Lift your glad voices in triumph on high, For Jesus bath risen, and man shall not die."

4. The living Christ banishes fear (28:10). Jesus' resurrection was supernatural. This brought a response of fear to the women as they met Him. Jesus told them to not be afraid. Through death Jesus destroyed him that had the power of death. There is nothing left to fear but God Himself.

A proper fear of God will cause one to stand in awe of Him and to be freed from other fears.

The Schemes of Man Defeated

5. Jesus' resurrection dealt a blow to the schemes of the enemy: (Matthew 28:11-15). It was no mistake that the adversaries placed a guard at the tomb. These men saw the evidence of the glorious resurrection of Christ.

While the women went to share their news with the disciples, the guards went to their friends with the same news. To the one group the message brought joy, to the other shame and frustration. Jesus was victor over sin and Satan.

6. Jesus' appearance in bodily form to His disciples was proof of His resurrection (Matthew 28:16-18). How could the disciples refute the resurrection as Jesus stood in their very presence? However, it was a difficult thing to fully comprehend how this came to pass. When we find it hard to fully comprehend God's dealings and revelations, the best thing we can do is fall down before our Lord and humbly seek His further enlightenment.

The Disciples Empowered for Service

7. Through His resurrection, Jesus receives all power in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:16-18). Jesus had power before His resurrection, but not in the way that it now was vested in Him. His right to judge. His power to save, and His ability to empower His servants are all part of this power.

8. The resurrection empowers the believer- to obey the Gospel message and share it with others (Matthew 28:19-20). God's eternal Word is powerful and inspiring. When we willingly accept, embrace, and follow it, we become compelled to share it with others. Our burden and compassion for the lost will also grow deeper.

Important Teachings

1. Jesus' resurrection at the dawning of the first day signifies His place as the Morning Star of our redemption (Matthew 28:1).

2. The open sepulcher proclaims the risen Lord (Matthew 28:2).

3. The resurrection is the basis for great joy (Matthew 28:8).

4. The living Christ banishes fear (Matthew 28:10).

5. Jesus' resurrection dealt a blow to the schemes of the enemy (Matthew 28:11-15).

6. Jesus' appearance in bodily form to His disciples was proof of His resurrection (Matthew 28:16-18).

103

7. Through His resurrection, Jesus receives all power in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:16-18).

8. The resurrection empowers the believer to obey the Gospel message and share it with others (Matthew 28:19-20).

Answers to Questions

1. What does Jesus' rising the first day of the week signify?

The Old Testament feasts served their purpose and ushered in the new and living way. Jesus' resurrection at the early dawn of a new week signifies a new beginning. It is appropriate to observe the first day of the week as "the Lord's Day," offering Him grateful thanksgiving and reverent worship.

2. What role did the angel fill at the tomb?

The angel opened the door of the tomb to allow Christ's followers to look in and observe the empty tomb. The angel also was God's messenger of comfort and good news as the message of Jesus' resurrection was revealed.

3. Of what significance was Jesus' arrangement to meet His disciples in n Galilee?

This was the place where Jesus began His earthly ministry. Also, this was possibly the place where Christ was transfigured earlier. It seems fitting that Jesus would choose the same place to end His earthly pilgrimage and give the Great Commission to His followers before He ascended to His Father in heaven.

4. How does Jesus' resurrection provide joy in the believer's life?

Jesus' rising from the grave demonstrated His power over death and the grave. This same power is transferred to His followers as they crucify themselves and accept Christ as their personal Lord and Master. As God's children, we claim the promise that "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

5. Why were the chief priests so intent on defying the clear evidence of Jesus' resurrection?

It was difficult to admit that all their scheming and conniving were futile and empty. They had thought they were the winners in the controversy surrounding Jesus' identity and had proved that Jesus was just another man, a blasphemer and sinner. They wanted to keep the masses under that impression. It was deeply humiliating to admit they were wrong, especially to admit to something that would attest to Christ's deity as the resurrection did.

6. How might we hinder the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives today?

Whenever we question or doubt the eternal principles and teachings of God's Word, we stifle the power of God. Personal failure in our Christian

lives hinders the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Failing to carry out the Great Commission in its entirety limits the effectiveness of Christ's power in our lives as well as in the lives of others.

7. Detail the particular duties given in the Great Commission. In what practical ways can these be fulfilled?

"Go ye" focuses on the personal aspect of the call to serve. "All nations" describes the scope of service in its entirety. No one is excluded from the privilege to be a part of God's family. "Teaching them to observe all things" clearly defines the content of our message.

Street meetings, prison ministry, tract distribution, writing a letter to a needy soul, or visiting the unsaved neighbor are examples of ways to carry out God's message to all people.

8. What does God's abiding presence provide for His followers?

God's Spirit dwelling within our hearts brings strength and comfort. There is rest as we let the Holy Spirit control our thoughts and actions. "Unto the end of the world" assures us that God will not change His mind and desert us at any point along the way.

Summarizing the Lesson

Where would I be without Jesus?
Where would I spend eternity?
Lost in a world full of sadness,
Oh, without Jesus where would I be?

The resurrection of Christ from the dead is a most precious event in human history. It is the capstone of the whole Bible and the very basis of the Christian faith. Our faith is in a living, resurrected Saviour. Let us praise His Name forever!

Research Guide

Read Mark 16; Luke 24, 25; and John 20. The added details will give a broader scope.