

## 60. Jesus Rose Again the Third Day

In our last topic, we saw that we want to show our physical and spiritual children the importance of praying for boldness, so they will be able to share the Gospel with godly boldness instead of their own strength. In this topic, we are going to see what happened on the day the Father raised Jesus from the dead.

There were many women who had watched the crucifixion of Jesus. Mark 15:40-41 says, “There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.” At least two of those women followed Joseph and Nicodemus to see where they buried Jesus. Mark 15:47 says, “And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.” Mark 16:1-3 goes on to tell us what some of those women did after the Sabbath, when those verses say, “Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, ‘Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?’”

The women had returned to where they stayed after they saw where the body of Jesus was laid. Luke 23:55-56 says, “And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.” Genesis 1:5 says, “God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.” Then, Genesis 1:8, 13, 19, 23, and 31 say the same thing for days two through six. Genesis 2:2-3 says, “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” When God gave the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:8-9, He said, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work.”

In that way, God showed that there was to be a day of rest each week. The death and resurrection fulfilled the Law. So, after the resurrection, we read in 1 Corinthians 16:2, “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.” Here, we see that the church began to take its day of rest on the first day of the week. That is why Sunday is called the Lord’s Day instead of the Sabbath.

Here, we see what the women did once the sun went down on the day after Jesus was crucified (Once the sun went down for the Jews the first day of the week began). At the place where they were staying, they prepared a mixture of spices and fragrant oils to place on the body of Jesus the next morning. As a result, they started toward the place where Jesus had been laid in the tomb very early in the morning on the first day of the week. However, as they walked toward the place of the tomb, they had a discussion among themselves and asked one another the question, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?”

Meanwhile, the chief priests and Pharisees had not been resting on the Sabbath. Matthew 27:62-66 says, “On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, ‘Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, “After three days I will rise.” Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, “He has risen from the dead.” So the last deception will be worse than the first.’ Pilate said to them, ‘You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.” Instead of resting on the Sabbath, the chief priests and Pharisees were making negotiations with Pilate to get guards placed at the tomb so that it would be impossible for the disciples to steal the body during the night. The women did not know what the priests had been doing, so the only thing they thought they needed was someone to roll away the stone. They did not expect to find it sealed by the Romans.

By the time the women arrived, the tomb was no longer sealed. In addition, the Roman soldiers were no longer there. Matthew 28:2-4 says, “And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.” Then, Matthew 28:11 adds, “Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.” As a result of the earthquake, and the angel rolling away the stone from the tomb, the guards saw that the tomb was empty and fled for their lives. They went to tell the chief priests first because they knew that Pilate could choose to kill them when he found out that the body had disappeared from the tomb.

Meanwhile, Mark 16:4-5 says, “But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.” By the time the women arrived at the tomb, they saw that the tomb was wide open. As a result, they went into the tomb to place their mixture of spices and precious ointment on the body of Jesus. However, they immediately received another surprise when they entered the tomb. Instead of finding the body, they found a young man wearing a long white robe sitting on the right side of the place where the body had been laid. The women were immediately alarmed. The word translated “alarmed” means *to be filled with terror or amazement*. They were probably filled with a little bit of both. The women found out that the young man, and a second person at the tomb, were both angels.

Then, the angels spoke to them. Luke 24:5-8 says, “Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”’ And they remembered His words.” Mark 16:6-8 tells us that the first angel spoke again, “But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.’ So they went out quickly

and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

We see that the angel told the women not to be afraid. He told the women that he knew they were looking for Jesus. He said it was true that Jesus had been crucified. However, the angel also told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. The words of the angel brought both fear and excitement to the women. They were filled with fear because it was probably almost impossible for them to believe what the angel had said. At the same time, it brought great joy. They had a very great love for Jesus and were filled with joy to hear that He was alive. The angel invited the women to see the place where Jesus had been laid in the tomb.

The angel also reminded the women of the words of Jesus. Luke 24:6-8 says, “He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ And they remembered His words.” Jesus had told His followers, in advance, that He would rise again. However, they did not expect Him to be put to death, so they heard those words, but did not really understand them. Now the women remembered the words when the angel reminded them.

The angel told the women to go and tell the disciples and Peter. The women then quickly went out and fled from the tomb. They were shaking with fear as they went. Luke 24:10 tells us, “It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the *mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles.” Luke tells us that the women did obey the angel and told the apostles, but they did not tell anyone else. The reason for not telling anyone else was due to their fear. The word translated “trembled” means *to shake with fear or to have great anxiety*. At the same time, they were filled with the feeling of amazement, because they had heard that Jesus had risen from the dead.

We need to understand that many people today, who are not Christians, will also doubt when they hear about the resurrection. That is why it is so important to remember John 16:8-11, which says: “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” Jesus told the disciples that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict and convince those who do not believe that Jesus is the Righteous One who is now in heaven. We are to share what the Word of God says and then allow the Holy Spirit to do the convincing. That is also an important lesson that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand. We are to share the Word of God, and then, let the Holy Spirit do His work in the lives of others. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to work with the Holy Spirit in evangelism.