

81. Jesus Rose Again on the Third Day

In our last topic, we saw that Jesus died in our place, for our sin. We also saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to show their love to Jesus by their obedience to Him. We saw that the way to help them learn to be obedient to Jesus is to provide an example by our own lives. In our topic today, we are going to see what happened the morning that Jesus rose from the dead.

We saw, as we concluded the last topic, that the women who followed Jesus had prepared spices to place on the body of Jesus. Luke 24:1-3 says, “Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” The women had rested on the Sabbath, but very early on the first day of the week (Sunday morning), those women went to the tomb to bring the spices they had prepared. (This is why we worship on Sunday and call the day the Lord’s Day because each week we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.)

The women had one question as they talked together while they walked to the tomb. Mark 16:3-4 says, “And they said among themselves, ‘Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?’ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.” The women realized they had a problem. The stone that covered the entrance to the tomb was so large, they knew they would not be able to roll the stone from the entrance to the tomb. As a result, they discussed among themselves, as they walked toward the tomb, what they would do.

However, when they got close to the tomb, they saw that their problem was solved. They saw that the stone had already been rolled away. Matthew 28:2 tells how their problem was solved. That verse 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.” Here, we see that the problem had been solved for them by God, because He had sent an angel to move the stone and show the tomb was empty.

The women immediately found that they had a new problem. They went into the tomb but did not find the body of Jesus. Instead, they found someone else inside the tomb. Mark 16:5-6 says, “And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 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.’” Here, we see that one angel spoke to the women. Luke mentioned the fact that there was a second angel there that morning.

Luke 24:4-7 says, “And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 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.”” These two, who looked like men, were actually angels. The women were greatly perplexed and filled with amazement when they saw the angels. The word translated “perplexed” *means to be entirely at a loss or to be in doubt*. Peter had this same experience in his vision in Acts 10:17, which says, “Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate.” Here, the word is translated “wondered within”.

An angel had said he knew they were seeking Jesus. He told them he knew Jesus had been crucified. Then, the angel asked the women a question, which caused the women to be even more confused, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” The place to look for a person that is dead is in a grave. However, the angel asked the women why they were looking for someone who was living. The angel told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead and was no longer at the tomb.

Then, the angel reminded the women that Jesus had told them, when they were in Galilee, that He would be crucified and rise again the third day. Jesus had said, in Luke 9:22, “The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.” Jesus had begun to tell His followers, while they were still in Galilee, about His coming sufferings and death. He had also told them that He would be raised the third day. That was why the angel reminded the women what Jesus had said so they could remember that Jesus had predicted these things would happen.

Luke 24:8-12 goes on to say, “And they remembered His words. Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.” Here, we see that the women remembered the words Jesus had spoken in Galilee. Although the women remembered what Jesus had said, that did not mean that all of the women believed Jesus had risen from the dead.

Mary Magdalene went back to the tomb later. John 20:11-13 says, “But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’” Here, we see that Mary thought someone had moved the body rather than understanding that Jesus was alive.

Mary had her understanding opened by Jesus just a few minutes later. John 20:16-18 says, “Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to Him, ‘Rabboni!’ (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these

things to her.” After Jesus spoke to her, Mary was a changed woman and was eager to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him that morning.

Meanwhile, we see that the eleven, and the other followers of Jesus who were gathered together, heard the report of the women. When the women told the apostles and the others that Jesus had risen, the followers who were gathered there did not believe the words of the women. The apostles thought that the words of the women were idle tales. The word translated “idle tales” *means idle talk or nonsense*. Here, we see that the first response of the disciples was to think that the women were imagining these things because of their great sorrow at the death of Jesus. As we saw, even though Mary and the others told the apostles what the angel had said, Mary either did not understand, or did not believe, what she and the other women told the disciples.

Peter and John immediately ran to the tomb to see what had happened. John 20:3-7 says, “Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.” Peter saw that the linen cloths were lying there. He saw the napkin that had been wrapped around the head of Jesus had been folded and placed in a separate place.

John went in after Peter. John 20:8-9 says, “Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.” We see the two departed and were amazed at what had happened. Jesus had told the disciples about His coming death and resurrection several times. However, the disciples did not understand. That is why we read what happened that evening when Jesus appeared to the disciples. Luke 24:44-45 says, “Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Here, we see that Jesus had to open their understanding before they could comprehend the Scriptures.

This is an important key for us to understand as we teach our physical and spiritual children. People actually learn in three stages. First, they gain knowledge of the Scriptures. Second, they gain understanding. Third, they learn how to apply the Scriptures to their daily lives. Spiritual understanding only comes from the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:10 says, “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual understanding. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to depend on the Holy Spirit for spiritual understanding.