

Lighthouse Bible Church

October 12th, 2014

John 20: 1 – 10 *Scripture Reading: Matthew 28: 1 - 8*

‘The Sovereign Resurrection of Jesus’

Stand – Read – Pray

As we saw last time, all of the events leading up to and including the trials, torture, crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus were all a part of God’s sovereign plan and purpose. That is why Jesus said earlier in **John 12: 27** **My soul is troubled** because He was about to go to the cross **and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour.**

He knew that His purpose was to go to the Cross because this was the sovereign plan of God Almighty from before the world began. **Revelation 13: 8** says **...the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, right?

And His crucifixion, death and burial, according to **Acts 2: 23**, was accomplished by the **determined purpose and by the foreknowledge of God** to redeem mankind from the wages of our sin, which is death. He was willing to die for the glory of the Father, for the redemption of mankind and for the fulfillment of every prophecy in Scripture concerning Him. So He died in our place.

Philippians 2: 7 says **He took on the form of a slave and came in the likeness of men .. He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

Hebrews 12: 2 says that **He endured the cross, despised the shame** because that is what He was called to do, because He knew the **joy** that waited beyond death.

Just to remind you of what has happened to lead us up to where we are today; Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane where the Romans and officers of the Sanhedrin arrested Him. They took Him to Annas, Caiaphas, Caiaphas again, Pilate, Herod and back to Pilate and they eventually persuaded Pilate to scourge and crucify Jesus.

Through all of these trials and His scourging, we see that Jesus was in control of all that was taking place. He was fulfilling scripture to the very detail through His trials and torture and crucifixion, death and burial.

Remember **Isaiah 50: 6** which said **I gave My back to those who struck Me and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard, I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.** And by the time they were done with Him He fulfilled another scripture in **Isaiah 52: 14** that said **His body was marred more than any man**

We then saw Him, last week, carry His own cross to the place of the skull where He would be crucified with two criminals on either side of Him, which also was a fulfillment of scripture. We saw that crucifixion was a horrible, cruel, torturous way to die.

We saw that while Jesus was hanging on the cross He was fulfilling the scriptures by the fact that:

His hands and His feet were pierced
He was crucified between 2 criminals.
He said 'I thirst' and the soldiers gave Him sour wine

The soldiers pierced His side and they looked on Him whom they 'P'
The soldiers by casting lots for His clothing
They didn't break His legs like they did the other 2 because He was
already dead.

We saw the life of Jesus come to an end on the cross when He cried out in a
loud voice **it is finished**. The plan of redemption, the death of the Lamb of
God for the sin of the world was complete.

Jesus then **gave up His spirit** and breathed His last. No one took His life
from Him, He gave it up of Himself. Remember **John 10: 17 – 18** where
Jesus said **I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it
from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.**

Then we saw where Joseph of Arimathia take Jesus' body to the grave
where He continued to fulfill the scriptures, even in that. He was put in a rich
man's tomb like Isaiah said He would. He was in the ground for 3 days like
He said He would.

And now, this morning, we get to see His victory over death and the grave
that we celebrate at Easter known as resurrection Sunday. The resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead, a central theme and important part of the
Christian faith and hope for the future. Remember what Jesus said back in
John 14: 19 because I live, you shall live also. Remember that He told
Martha and the others in **John 11: 25 I am the resurrection and the life**.

Everything that He had said and promised about His resurrection and
triumph over death, everything the Old Testament said about His resurrection
and triumph over death is about to happen because He continues to control
every aspect of what He says and what the Scriptures say will happen to
Him.

Psalm 16: 9 – 10 says therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol nor will you allow your Holy One to see corruption. Then if you were to read **Acts 2: 24 – 28** and **Acts 13: 34 – 35** you would see that this Psalm is specific to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

In **Isaiah 53: 10** it says that after His burial **He will see His seed, He shall prolong His days**

Remember Jesus told His disciples on several different occasions that this would happen. He said in **Mark 8: 31**: **Jesus began to teach them that He must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and after 3 days rise again.**

He said later in **Mark 9: 31** **He taught them and said He is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him and after He is killed, He will rise the 3rd day.** So let's look at John 20 and see how this unfolds.

Verse One: **Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.**

Mary and several others, from the parallel passages, came to the tomb **on the first day of the week**, which would have been Sunday. That is why we celebrate and meet together on Sunday for church services. They couldn't do anything of the Sabbath day for that would be a violation of the Jewish law.

They arrive at the tomb where Jesus was and they saw **that the stone had been taken away.** From the other scriptures we know that there was a great earthquake and an angel according to **Matthew 28: 1 – 3** rolled the stone away. *Describe burial places with stone in grove to roll.*

Verse 2: Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved and said to them ‘they have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him’.

Mary thinks that someone may have stolen the body of Jesus so she runs to **Simon Peter and to John, the other disciple whom Jesus loved**, and she tells them **they have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him.**

What John doesn’t record that the other gospels do is that Pilate had set a guard on the tomb and sealed the tomb because there had been a rumor going around that He was going to rise in 3 days.

The others record that when Mary and the other Mary were going to the tomb, they were wondering how they were going to move the stone because it was very large. When they get there the stone is already moved and presumably the Roman soldiers are gone and when they look inside Jesus is gone and there are two angels that tell them ‘He is not here, He is risen just like He said, go and tell His disciples’.

Verses 3 – 4 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.

John records that both he and Peter ran to the tomb and that John outran Peter and got there first.

Verses 5 – 7: 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.

John gets to the tomb and looks inside but **doesn't go in**. It is light enough for him to see inside and it is close enough for him to see inside and tell that **the linen cloths were lying there**.

In a typical burial, the body would be wrapped in a sheet with spices and ointments mixed in as the body was being wrapped. They also used some strips of cloths to hold the arms, legs and chin stable. In addition to that, they would put a cloth or cap or some type of material, separately on the head and face of the body.

So when John looks in, he sees these linen cloths still lying there and one historian said that he was afraid to go in because over that 3 day period of time, the blood stained, spice and ointment soaked cloths would have begun to dry and stiffen. And when Jesus resurrected, He would have gone right through those and it may have appear that someone was still in there.

Then in Verse 6 Peter pushes past John and **went into the tomb and he saw the linen cloths lying there**. Not only that but Verse 7 says **he saw the handkerchief** or napkin or face cloth or face covering **that had been wrapped around His head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded together in a place by itself**.

Why does He go into so much detail about the linen cloths and the cloth that was wrapped and now is folded? It is one of the many proofs that Jesus was raised from the dead.

You see, after all this happened and the Jewish and Romans leaders couldn't explain where Jesus' body got off too, they spread a story that the disciples had stolen the body, remember that. **Matthew 28: 11 - 15**

Well, if someone is going to steal a body, they would have had to go through the Roman guards, and they didn't as scripture makes very clear. Secondly they would not have taken the time to take all the linen cloths off and fold the head piece. They would have grabbed the body and ran.

By the way, do you remember when Jesus called Lazarus forth from the grave in **John 11: 44**? It said **He came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth..** When Jesus came forth, He resurrected into a glorified body that went right through the linen cloths. He was not bound by physical barriers. *Remember that after that He could walk through walls etc.*

Verses 8 - 10: 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. Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

Peter must have said 'hey John come on in here, He's not here' so John goes in and it says **he saw and believed.** What did he see that made him believe and what did he believe? Remember John is writing this years after it happened.

He saw the grave cloths and concluded from the evidence he had seen that Jesus must have risen from the dead as He had told them before. And by the way, remember the women went to the tomb first and they saw 2 angels there that told them **why are you seeking the living among the dead, He is not here, He is risen just like He said.**

And they were told to go and tell the disciples and then Peter and John ran to the tomb. So he had that information as well as what Jesus had told them before and what he also knew about the scriptures **and he believed.**

John believed that Jesus Christ raised from the dead based on what he had seen in the tomb and what he knew of the word of God. But at first he didn't believe, none of the disciples did. Listen to what Mark and Luke record when the women came and told the disciples that the angel told them Jesus is alive. **Luke 24: 11: that their words were like idle tales, like nonsense, and they didn't believe them.** In **Mark 16: 14** it says when **Jesus first appeared to the 11 as they sat at the table and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart because they did not believe THOSE who had seen Him after He had risen,** and that of course were the women.

I think because of that initial unbelief and when John would later see the resurrected Jesus later in John Chapter 20 he recorded one very special saying of Jesus.

It is the story of doubting Thomas, whom Jesus came and showed Himself too. And Thomas' reaction prompted a verbal response from Jesus that John records as, I believe, an indictment of his own initial unbelief.

This is what John recorded in **John 20: 29 Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed.** Listen **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

Well, after they spend some time at and in the tomb, **Verse 10** says **the disciples went away to their own homes.** You can imagine the questions and thoughts that were going through their minds as they are walking home. Mary Magdalene comes back to the tomb and lets see what happens with her in Verse 11.

Verse 11: But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

This is Mary Magdalene or Mary from the town of Magdala, like Judas Iscariot is Judas from the city of Karioth. She is the one that **Luke 8: 2** says **had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities and out of whom had come seven demons.** She is weeping and confused and concerned about where the body of Jesus was. Everyone else has left and she is apparently there alone. She is overcome with grief and looks in the tomb one more time. And look what she sees in Verse 12.

Verse 12: 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.

She probably didn't recognize them as angels because they are described in **Mark 16: 15** as **a young man** and in **Luke 24: 4** as **two men**. Remember this was written 25 years after this happened and he is looking back, knowing what he knows then. But they all described these two men wearing **a white robe or shining garments.** *Exodus 25: 22* *mercy seat, blood sacrifice, 'I will meet with you' now today through Christ Jesus. Cherub at both ends.*

In **Acts 1: 10** as they were watching Jesus ascend into heaven it says **2 men in white apparel stood there...** Angels always appear in scripture in male form. As a matter of fact **Matthew 28: 3** says **an angel came and rolled the stone away and his countenance was like lighting and his clothing as white as snow.** Then one of the angels asks her in Verse 13.

Verse 13: then they said to her, 'woman, why are you weeping'.

In somewhat of a mild rebuke to her not understanding why the tomb is empty. You should be rejoicing, not weeping; and she says **because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid Him.**

She assumes that He is still dead but has been moved and now she can't finish preparing His body with other ointments and spices. But as she will soon see, that won't be necessary, look at Verse 14

Verse 14: Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was Jesus.

She turns around and there is Jesus, alive from the dead, standing there; but she did not recognize Him. The last time she saw Jesus, He was bloody, beaten and unrecognizable as a man. She still assumed He was dead. He obviously looked different to her because now He is in a resurrected body and clothing, so she didn't recognize Him. Also, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus in **Luke 24: 16** her eyes may have been restrained from seeing who He truly is. But that will change too. Look at Verse 15.

Mark 16: 12 says **He appeared to them** (2 on road) **in another form.**

Verse 15: Jesus said to her 'woman why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking? She supposing Him to be the gardener said to Him 'sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him and I will just take Him away.

Jesus asks Mary the same thing the angels just asked her '**why are you weeping**', He already knows why? Then He says **whom are you seeking**, not What are you seeking, because He already knows that too. He is consoling her with His inquiry knowing that He is about to be the answer to why she is weeping and whom she is seeking.

Mary talks with Jesus but thinks He is the gardener or caretaker of the garden where Jesus was buried. At this point, when Jesus talks with her, she does not recognize His voice or Him as the Lord. She thinks he may have carried the body of Jesus away and she wants it back and says **I will take Him away.**

That would be very difficult for a woman alone to do, but she will willing to because of her great love for Him and her desire to see Him have a proper burial. Then look what happens in Verse 16.

Verse 16: Jesus said to her ‘Mary’ and she turned and said to Him Rabboni, which is to say Teacher.

Jesus opens her eyes to who He is as He speaks her name and she instantly recognizes Him then and says **Rabboni**. It is a strong word of honor toward the One it is directed. It is a stronger word than Rabbi but has the same root. It means master or teacher or chief One. It is the same word the blind man used in **Mark 10: 51** when Jesus gave him back his sight. And then she falls at His feet and clings to Him.

Verse 17: 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 you God’.

As much as she wanted to hold on to Jesus, to cling to Him, He tells her ‘I want you to go deliver a message to **My brethren**. Jesus had not yet gone back to the Father, as a matter of fact He would be around **Acts 1: 3** says for another 40 days and then go back to the Father and then send the Holy Spirit like He said He would back in **John 14: 15 – 18** and **John 15: 26**. And we see the reality of that in **Acts 2: 1 – 4** on the **day of Pentecost**.

Jesus tells her to tell **My brethren**. They are now brothers in Christ because of His finished work of redemption on the cross that bring sinners into an intimate relationship with Him. Isn't that what **Ephesians 1: 7** says **in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace**.

That is why **Hebrews 2: 11** says that **He is not ashamed to call them brethren.** And why **Romans 8: 29** says **we are conformed to the image of His Son what He might be the firstborn among MANY brethren.** And the reason is because we have the same **Father and God.** And as **John 14: 23** says **they both come and live within us.** Well Mary is overwhelmed by this and she goes and does what Jesus told her too; in verse 18

Verse 18: **Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken these things to her.** And of course, at first they did not believe her either just like **Luke 24: 10 – 11** says **Mary Magdalene told these things to the apostles and their words seemed to them like idle tales or nonsense and they did not believe them.**

Well, the question is today, do you believe? Do you believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave? This is the reason we have a hope for the future, a hope that lies beyond the grave, a hope and a peace that lies beyond death. **Titus 2: 13** calls it **the blessed hope at the appearing of Jesus Christ again.** **1st Peter 1: 3** calls it **a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Jesus gave His life in a cruel torturous scourging and death for us. He died and was buried and rose from the grave, for us. He had the power to take His own life and He had the power to raise it again, and He did. The question becomes; do you believe it?

Jesus said in **John 11: 25 – 26** **I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, yet shall he live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Then He said this **do you believe this?**

Do you here this morning believe this? With no evidence at the tomb, with never having seen Jesus, with no miracles, with no anything, do you believe this.

Do you believe that Jesus was the Son of God, God in human form as He said He was and as the scriptures say He was?

Do you believe that your sin and mine nailed Him to the cross because God said the wages of sin is death and that He demonstrated His love for us in that He sent His Son to die in our place.

Do you believe that He rose from the grave as He said He would and as the disciples, over 500 at one time, say He did because they saw Him after He died?

Do you believe that you can have eternal life and avoid the punishment of hell because Jesus took your punishment and died for your sins and was raised from the dead to appease God's wrath against your sin.

Do you believe that He can raise you from the dead to eternal life and conquer sin and its consequences of death for you? Well, He can and He did.

1st Corinthians 15: 26 says that **death is an enemy** and that **Jesus conquered death by His own resurrection from the dead**. He becomes the only way, **John 14: 6**, to conquer death and to get to heaven.

The Bible says in **Hebrews 2: 15** that many people **fear death** and try to avoid it or find relief from it through worldly pursuits. But it will happen to every one of us.

Through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, **1st Corinthians 15: 55 – 57** says that we are delivered from **the sting of death which is sin** and from death itself through the **victory we have in Jesus Christ**.

You say ‘what do I have to do to have victory over my sin and over its consequences of death and hell’? Good question; here is the answer in **Romans 10: 10**: **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and BELIEVE in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

Do you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? Then confess and submit to the living, resurrected Jesus as Lord of your life and you will be saved. **In that** confession and submission you willingly repent of your sin and trust Jesus to save you from its consequences and submit to the lordship of Christ in every area of your life and thus receive His forgiveness for sin.

Gospel and closing

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Introduction and Review:

John 12: 27, Revelation 13: 8, Acts 2: 23
Philippians 2: 7, Hebrews 12: 2, Isaiah 50: 6, 52: 14
John 10: 17 – 18, 14: 19, 11: 25, Psalm 16: 9 – 10
Acts 2: 24 – 28, Acts 13: 34 – 35, Isaiah 53: 10
Mark 8: 31, 9: 31

Verses 1 – 7:

Matthew 28: 1 – 3, 11 – 15, John 11: 44

Verses 8 – 10:

Luke 24: 11, Mark 16: 14, John 20: 29

Verses 11 – 12:

Luke 8: 2, Mark 16: 15, Luke 24: 4, Acts 1: 10
Matthew 28: 3

Verses 13 – 17:

Luke 24: 16, Mark 10: 51, Acts 1: 3, 2: 1 – 4
John 14: 15 – 18, 23, 15: 26, Ephesians 1: 7
Hebrews 2: 11, Romans 8: 29

Verse 18:

Luke 24: 10 – 11, Titus 2: 13, 1st Peter 1: 3
John 11: 25 – 26, 1st Corinthians 15: 26, 55 – 57
Hebrews 2: 15, Romans 10: 19

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