

STONE HARBOR

**P.O. Box 4049
Monterey CA, 93942
831.655.5800
www.stoneharborchurch.org
Pastor Johnny Potter**

Dear Readers,

What follows is one man's weekly attempt to know the truth of God's Word and bring it to His people for their good and ultimately for His glory. Please regard these only as notes belonging to a busy pastor uploaded as they stand (for better or for worse, complete or incomplete, almost always with grammatical errors, and always with room for refinement in content, structure, presentation...) to support the ongoing study of God's Word. I firmly believe that the community of faith which is the body of Christ can and should bring their gifts to bear for the good of the rest of the body and that any one teacher can be taught by the others with an understanding of the truth. Therefore, should you have insight that would sharpen any of the thinking expressed here, know that I would be pleased to receive it. Clearly, the input that is most welcome and most helpful is that which is more concise than verbose, Biblically grounded and expressed with the goal of displacing misunderstanding and apprehending the truth of God's Word. Your thoughts of that nature are most welcome, certainly appreciated and will be thoughtfully considered. You are invited to send those insights to me at johnny@stoneharborchurch.org.

In pursuit of truth and growing a shepherds heart,
Johnny

Transformation Card

This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.

Date: December 6, 2009
 Series: Who Jesus Is & Why He Matters
 Section: The Resurrection
 Topic: The Resurrection
 Message Title: What Happened after Jesus' Crucifixion, Death and Burial
 Short Title: What Happened after Jesus Died
 Text: Mark 16:1-8
 Key Words: Stone, roll away, tomb, Jesus the Nazarene, crucified, He has risen, not here, go tell, disciples, Peter

Message Outline

What Happened after Jesus Died

The Resurrection

- I. God's Angel Announced Jesus' **Resurrection**
- II. God's Angel Commissioned Jesus' Faithful Disciples to **Tell Others**
- III. Jesus' Faithful Disciples **Fled** in Fright

Related Scripture

1. Mark 16:1-8
2. Mat 28:1-8
3. Luke 24:1-12
4. John 20:1-13

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Take note of who came to Jesus tomb, and who didn't come.
2. Who was that young man in white?
3. What emotions did the women experience in their amazement?
4. State the simplicity of the angel's announcement.
5. What is the significance of that message in regards to God's grand plan of redemption and in regards to you?
6. In what way was the angel's commissioning of the women like that which has always been God's call upon His people?
7. What truth set the women to flight and how have you processed this truth?

Memory and Meditation Verse

"...you are looking for Jesus...,
 He has risen,
 He is not here;
 behold, here is the place they laid Him"

\ *Mark 16:6b NASB*

Exegetical Idea

Out of the darkness of Jesus' crucifixion, death and burial (Ch. 15:16-47) comes His resurrection, life and rule as the vindicated King of the KOG -- the Christ and Son of God who calls the very disciples who abandoned Him to rejoin Him in Galilee.

Homiletical Idea

Jesus is vindicated as God's Christ by His resurrection; and the message of His resurrection is entrusted into the hands of His devoted disciples who were to tell His other disciples of this good news.

Goals of Message

- That we would appreciate the significance of Jesus' resurrection both as it contributes to God's grand plan of redemption and as it impacts the lives we live.
- That we would respond in worship in communion, song and life

Service Plan

- Greeting (Johnny)
- Worship in Song (Chuck & Co.)
- Community Life Announcements (Leslie)
- Pastoral Prayer (Johnny)
- Scripture Reading
 - Reading 1: Mark 15:42-47 (Becky)
 - Reading 2: Mark 16:1-8 (Lori)
- Message (Johnny)
- Communion (Johnny)
- Closing Prayer (Dave)
- Benediction (Johnny)

What Happened after Jesus' Crucifixion, Death and Burial

Intro

If last Sunday was Good Friday in that we read the word of God regarding the crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus, this Sunday may be regarded as Easter Sunday in that we get to hear of and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead unto eternal and glorious life!

After Jesus death Joseph of Arimathea hurried to lay Jesus in his own tomb before the Sabbath observance began. It was, for the disciples of Jesus, probably the most somber Sabbath they had ever observed. It was the Sabbath following the Passover celebration. How were they to celebrate God's delivering them from Egypt when the one they thought was THE Deliverer was not on the thrown but in the grave. How were they to celebrate the Sabbath commemorating the completed work of God when He who they had believed would bring peace and rest was now dead and buried.

Hopes were dashed. It had been a sad Sabbath indeed.

How would you have felt as a disciple of Jesus after His crucifixion, death and burial? What would you have been thinking about during that long Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday?

Well Mark 16:1-8 tells us what a couple of his disciples, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jose and Salome, were up to as soon as the Sabbath was over: They went shopping (1). This was no diversion to pull them out of a depression, rather they went to buy spices that could be used to honor Jesus by anointing His body (1) even in death.

Lane (p. 585) points out that the climate in Jerusalem would have caused decomposition of Jesus body by the time the women came to anoint Him and the stench of the decomposed body would have been great. Therefore that the women went to anoint Him "must be viewed as **an expression of intense devotion**."

With these spices, early on Sunday morning (2), off they hurried to the tomb where they had (with their own eyes) seen Jesus laid just Friday afternoon. And on their way they were trying to figure out how they were going to solve the problem of moving the stone (3) that sealed the tomb. They knew they couldn't do it by themselves for it was just too big (4).

Their story reads as if they came into eyesight of the tomb up on the hill and verse 4 says, "Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large."

I can only imagine what was going through their minds. Someone has taken the body of our Jesus. Now we can not even anoint Him with spice and honor Him. The bad news just kept getting worse.

Into the tomb they went to confirm their fears, but to their surprise, verse 5 records, "...they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe." Mat 28:21 says that the robe was as "white as snow" and Luke 24:4 calls it "dazzling" Who was this young man? Mat 28:2 indicates that he was an angel of the Lord, i.e., a "divine messenger." And his presence frightened the women, "...they were amazed." [offer illus. to evoke same emotion: Mary, Zecharias...]

What did the angel do?

I. God's Angel Announced Jesus' Resurrection

A. *To Two Devoted (but misunderstanding) Women*

1. Their Devotion

a) They were there when other disciples were NOT

When all other disciples abandoned Him they did not, or at least, they abandoned Him the least. They were the exception to the rule. They were there “looking on from a distance” (Mk 15:40) when Jesus breathed His last upon the cross and they were there when Joseph laid His body in the tomb (15:47).

2. What they Misunderstood

a) That He would rise again

Jesus had three times previously explicitly told His disciples that He would suffer, die and then rise again. But this prediction of Jesus was one that hadn't seemed to be acknowledged by His disciples in general. So sure they were of what they knew concerning the Lord's Messiah from the common understanding of what He would do that new information that spoke of a Messiah other than the One of their conceptions, even information from the mouth of that very Messiah, couldn't seem to find a home in their thinking. These women, even though their devotion to Jesus seems by their actions to have been greater than that of their male counterparts, seem to have been of the same misunderstanding. They misunderstood the nature of the mission of the Christ, that He must die as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice to solve the problem once and for all of the sin caused estrangement from God; and they misunderstood His prediction – His promise – that He would rise from the dead. To Jesus' disciples, His betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death had not been seen for what it was -- the hand of God accomplishing His ultimate purpose leading to the exciting fulfillment of God's plan – it had been understood as the unfortunate nightmare of defeat and hope dashed.

So, very graciously and I'm sure at least in part to correct their misunderstanding, God sent an angel, evidently well briefed on the events of Jesus crucifixion, to establish the facts of what Jesus had promised but what, up until this time, had not been understood.

B. *With Profound Simplicity*

1. “You are looking for Jesus...” (v 6)

“You -- are looking for Jesus -- the Nazarene -- who has been crucified...”

Advancing their awareness that he was no ordinary young man but someone with divine knowledge (?!), it is as if he was saying, “Yes, I know exactly what you are doing and who you are looking for.” Their hearts must have been racing as they tried to take in all these unexpected events and words. They must have been carrying huge amounts of mental discontinuity. Who is this guy? What is he saying?

2. “He has risen,”

The angel continued with his mission from God of bringing divine clarity to the puzzle of the empty tomb. Please hear his words afresh this morning. Look at, take in, memorize and then meditate on these simple words from God’s messenger about Jesus who was crucified for our sin, “**He has risen!**” He who died and was buried has risen from the dead and is alive!

We think of death as final -- that which nothing can change. Death is death, the cessation of existence. Even those who some have called, “the god’s of our age” who work “miracles” in our hospitals face the insurmountable eventual unavoidable inevitability of death. Yet here we hear the angelic pronouncement, “**He has risen!**”

Don’t get sick of the preacher saying it. He knows he is repeating himself. Rather, take it in with the ears to hear that God has given you. “**He has risen!**”

This may be the single most significant reality of all. As gravity defines and impacts our physical existence, so the fact of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead defines and impacts our spiritual existence.

Or at least it should.

But do we live with this as the defining reality of our lives? Or is it just that teaching of the Bible that we come across now and then and give one worship service a year to its remembrance?

In Jesus and specifically in His resurrection from the dead, God overcame death!

Listen to the rest of the angels message?

3. “He is not here”

Jesus did not remain in the grave!

4. “behold, here is the place where they laid Him.”

Mark 15:47 had recorded that these same two women had followed Jesus body to that very tomb just two days earlier. They had been “looking on to see where He was laid.”

Now, to confirm the fact of Jesus’ resurrection the angle offered the evidence that His body was not in the tomb where they had seen it laid with their own eyes.

Those same eyes were taking in this new unexpected confusing reality. He was not there. Why wasn’t He there? The angel’s answer: He had risen!

What does it all mean? What is the meaning of the resurrection of Jesus?

C. And Ultimate Significance

1. Past – The Fulfillment of OT Promise

Looking back we see that Jesus' resurrection is the fulfillment of God's OT promise to redeem mankind and through him all of creation to Himself. First in preliminary pencil strokes (Gen 3:15), then with progressive clarity both in prophetic words and prophetic deeds God has added color and texture to His promise to redeem all things from their fallen state of estrangement to the reality of His ultimate intention.

It is the Biblical theme of life out of death. God brings life out of death!

a) Life out of Death

(1) In the Creation itself God brought life out of death

(2) Gen 3:15

Adam and Eve's rebellion in the garden caused the death that shaped the reality of life ever since then – the death of intimate relationship between man and God and between Him and all of his creation which man was supposed to rule. No longer walking in close fellowship with God in a perfect garden, mankind now existed in estrangement. Yet in this verse we see the initial promise that God would bring life (restoration) out of death (fallen life) through a descendent of Eve who would deal a fatal blow to the descendent of the serpent and by implication bring and end to the rule of estrangement.

(3) Seth

God brought the life of Seth out of the death of Able remedying the sin of Cain

(4) Noah

God brought the life of Noah and his descendents out of the death of the flood

(5) Sarah

God brought life out of the death of Sarah's barren womb by bringing forth Isaac

(6) Exodus

God brought life to the nation of Israel by delivering His people from the death of bondage in Egypt

(7) Sacrificial System

God allowed the death of animals to substitute for the just judgment of the sin of the people of Israel allowing them to continue to live in covenant relationship with Him

(8) Jesus

Ultimately God has brought life out of the death of Jesus. He was the final sacrifice acceptable to God. He did not only picture the removal of sin (as the blood of bulls and goats had done under the Law) and the replacement of estrangement with communion, but He has actually secured it.

That the grave could not hold Jesus and the God raised Him from the dead is not just His good fortune that we can be happy for Him. It effects us today! Reach for this. How does the resurrection of Jesus effect our reality?

2. Present – The “Already”

Considering what the resurrection means to us as we live today and tomorrow...

a) The Resurrection Vindicates Jesus as the Christ

It is one thing to claim you will do great things as politicians do in order to get elected; it is yet another thing to actually bring those things into reality, as every elected official discovers. Jesus not only said He would be killed and rise again, He was killed and did rise again. He was not hot air, He was who He claimed to be and He did what He said He would do. And what did the Christ come to do?

b) The Christ Came to Redeem, and in fact, He Has Redeemed!

(1) He died to bring true life out of spiritual death

(2) He was raised in demonstration of that redemption – the reality of death has been replaced by the reality of life.

(3) We are not like the prophets of old who wondered who the Redeemer would be, we know that person He is Jesus the Nazarene – so proved not only by His words but also by His deeds and most significantly the deed of His resurrection.

(4) All who trust in Him are redeemed by Him

c) We are Those Who He Has Redeemed

(1) His Death and Resurrection Has Secured Our New and True Life

(2) We have new life in Christ

(a) John – Born Again

(b) Paul – All things new

(3) Yet, many, most don't live in the awareness of this new/true life

We live as though Christ were still in the grave and nothing has changed, when in fact, He has risen and everything has changed.

Why is it so difficult for us to live in the awareness of our resurrection-secured new/true life in Christ?

(a) Reasons We Live Unaware

(i) It Takes Faith

This new/true life Christ has secured for us is known only by **faith**, i.e., by trusting in what our natural eyes can't see but what we believe to be true

(ii) Faith isn't Easy and Doesn't Come Naturally

The things we must know by faith are not at first easy to accept. They do not appear to be as real as the "real" we can see with our natural eyes. Why is this? Our mind is undergoing transformation and renewing. It is being transformed into a mind that can see spiritual truths. And this process of transformation is progressive and life long.

(iii) We Choose Natural not Supernatural

We choose to listen and look with our natural senses at the information the world is sending our way. We do this instead of choosing to listen and look (with God given ears to hear and the eyes to see) at the revelation God has sent our way in His word. As we choose to listen to the world we are choosing not to listen to God.

The fact that we **now** live more unaware of the reality Jesus' resurrection-secured redemption does NOT require that we **continue** to do so. In fact...

(4) All believers SHOULD live with that awareness

We SHOULD live understanding ourselves not most significantly as children of our birth parents, or employees of our employer, or even as the husband or wife of our spouse..., but rather as the redeemed children of God.

To the degree we do this we are living by faith believing in the truth of the resurrection.

To the degree we do NOT we are living by sight in the natural world around us limiting ourselves to a reality that is sub-ultimate.

I desire to live aware of the redemption Jesus' death and resurrection have secured. I desire to live in the awareness of God's perfect love for me. I desire to sense His strong hand holding on to me. Don't you?

Towards that end, let's add to our desire our commitment and intentional choice to:

- grow in our faith
- be transformed by the renewing of our minds as we know him better with the Holy Spirit's help as we choose to listen to His voice in the pages of Scripture through careful and regular study.
- live aware of the reality of the closeness with God we can enjoy because Jesus' death and resurrection **has done away with spiritual death**, -- estrangement from God – for all who believe.

Will you choose that intentional life of discipleship? It will cost you some of the world, it will gain you more of God.

Jesus has redeemed us to enjoy the life of intimate communion with God. This life is available to us now through faith but practically speaking it too often lies camouflaged by the world. We can all take hope in the fact that this intimate communion will be made completely accessible in the future.

3. Future – The “Not Yet”

Looking forward we see that the resurrection of Jesus will ultimately yield the consummated fulfillment of God's perfect plan for all of creation...

Our spirits are redeemed **now**, but our minds are only **being** renewed.

In the future, even our bodies – our whole beings – will be made ultimately alive and we will live the new true life fully realized. This will happen at the second resurrection which will occur when Jesus comes again.

Then, in our own resurrected bodies and with fully transformed minds we will have in whole what we now only have in part -- the awareness of the redemption Jesus' death and resurrection have already secured. What we have only accessed by faith will become completely accessible and as easy to be aware of as what we see with our natural eyes today.

Looking forward to the return of Jesus that is still future to us today, Paul says...

1 Cor 15

¹Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴and that He was buried,

and that **He was raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,

⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;
⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

²⁰ But now **Christ has been raised from the dead**, the first fruits of those who are asleep. (He was the first and there were more to come just like a harvest.)

²¹ For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all will be made alive**.

²³ But each in his own order: **Christ the first fruits**, after that **those who are Christ's at His coming**,

²⁴ then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

²⁶ The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed**.

⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written,

"DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?

O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us **the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

What happened after Jesus died? God's angel announced Jesus' resurrection to two devoted disciples with profound simplicity and ultimate significance. He is risen and that changes everything. We have hope of the same resurrection. What else happened after this?

II. God's Angel Commissioned Jesus' Faithful Disciples to Tell Others

A. Verse 7

⁷ "But go, tell His disciples and Peter,
 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee;
 there you will see Him, just as He told you.'"

B. The Message to be Told

1. Implicit

a) Jesus has risen!

2. Explicit

a) “He is going ahead of you to Galilee”

(1) That He is going speaks to His aliveness

(2) That He is going ahead speaks to His leadership and His desire that they join Him

b) “There you will see Him”

(1) In the place where Jesus had told His disciples to go, there they would and did see Him.

(a) Johnny, in the place of your obedience, there “you will see Him.”

(b) Fellow disciples, in the place of His calling on your life, there, “you will see Him.”

(2) In the future as well, this same Jesus will come again as He has said, then you will see Him most fully.

c) “Just as He told you”

(1) Not, “I told you so”

(2) But, “My word is true.”

It was as if the angel wished to get across the point that what Jesus has said will come to pass will come to pass.

He had told them. In Mark 14:28 Jesus had said, **“But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”**

But most likely to His disciples His betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death seemed to have proven Him wrong. They must have felt that they would never see Him again and been confused about what His life had even meant. But here the angel of the Lord is telling His two devoted disciples to tell the others that what Jesus has told them will come to pass just as He told them – even if they had not understood all that He had said.

C. The Messengers to Tell

1. Two Misinformed but Devoted Women

a) Devoted to Jesus

b) Devalued by Society

Unlikely messengers because their culture devalued them just because they were women. God did not so devalue them. Rather He saw to it that all mankind would read in all ages that He expressed His high value of women and entrusted them with the message of Jesus' resurrection.

c) Didn't Have it All Down

They had misunderstandings even about who Jesus was and what His mission was. They didn't have all their facts down tight YET GOD USED THEM!

D. The Pattern to Follow – Tell Others About What We Know to be True About God

1. OT

Israel was to bring the knowledge of God to the nations

2. At the Empty Tomb

The angel commissioned Jesus' devoted disciples to bring forward to others the knowledge of His resurrection and the redemption it secured as well as the message that His ministry would continue with His disciples.

3. At Galilee

Jesus would issue what we have come to call, "The Great Commission" Mat 28:16-20. Here He commissioned them to make disciples of all the nations which would imply telling them the truths of his resurrection.

4. Before He Ascended

Jesus informed His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them and then He charged them to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, "and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

5. Paul Succinctly Encouraged the Perpetuation of the Pattern

2 Tim 2:2 "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

6. The Pattern Was Lived Out

The pattern was indeed lived out by Jesus redeemed and re-fielded disciples and it has been handed down to us and we are now the bears of this message. How will we handle it?

How did the women handle their charge?

III. Jesus' Faithful Disciples Fled in Fright

A. Verse 8

8 They went out and fled from the tomb,
for trembling and astonishment had gripped them;
and they said nothing to anyone,
for they were afraid.

B. The Obvious Failure

1. They Failed

The angel says do not be amazed (frightened) and do tell. They were so scared they ran away and did not tell anyone!

C. The Hidden Example

1. Their Failure was Temporary

The other gospels record that they did eventually go and tell.

2. Jesus Resurrection Impacted Them

The record that they fled trembling with astonishment gripping them in fear at the announcement of Jesus resurrection shows that His resurrection impacted them. They were faced with the reality and it had an impact.

Why is this an example to us? Because we need to let the reality of the empty tomb explained by the divine messenger by the fact that "He has risen" impact us. This truth needs to shake us out of our natural way of thinking. We need to shake in our boots at its implications. We need to let it affect us. Does it? It must. Oh Lord, it must. This morning and forever after make it so.

Conclusion

Jesus has risen from the dead. In His resurrection God reversed the curse of Genesis 3. Our sin-caused estrangement from God has been replaced by communion with Him. This communion is accessible through faith – our confident assurance of what we believe to be true even though we don't see its proof with our natural eyes. We live increasingly in this faith-accessed-reality as our minds are progressively renewed and we experience continued transformation from the natural to the spiritual mind – the mind of Christ. And even though we can and should live with the awareness of our identity as the redeemed of Christ, we also live with the real hope of the future ultimate consummation of all things when Christ comes a second time. Then His resurrection will become most fully realized in our lives as both our spiritual and physical transformation will be complete. Just as He was the first fruit of those raised from the dead, we will be raised from both our spiritual and our physical death. We will then be the image-bearers of God that He intended us to be, knowing Him as the Christ-like sons and daughters He has purposed from and for all eternity.

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