

“He Is RIGHT!”

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East Cobb United Methodist Church
April 12, 2009 Sunrise

Scripture: Luke 23:50-24:12

Mary Magdalene speaking:

It was chilly that morning as we walked to Jesus' tomb. I remember pulling my cloak around me tighter as we walked – me, the other Mary, Joanna, and some other women. We were nervous and anxious. We did not know what we would find. After all it had been several long days of confusing and painful events that we didn't understand. The Passover, the night Jesus our Rabbi was arrested, His trial, and His crucifixion.

Fortunately, after our Rabbi died, good Joseph of Arimathea offered the use of his new tomb to lay Jesus' body. But the sun was setting soon and we did not have to time to properly prepare his body for burial so we had to leave. Oh it was so hard to leave our Rabbi there that evening. The events of the week had gone from jubilant to fearful within a just a few days.

It was only a week ago that he returned to Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover Feast and when people saw him come in on the donkey, they threw their coats on the ground before him and waved palms. They sang Hosannas one day and seemingly, cried “Crucify” the next. How fast our hearts can turn.

His followers were so dejected and lonely the day He died. They were confused and forgetful. Even I went home and sat on the floor, thinking I should be preparing my heart for the Shabbat but my heart was not in it. My Rabbi had just died. I was remembering the time that we met and how He could see through all my petty concerns.

I remembered that He taught us using parables. My favorite story that He told was of the man with two sons. I loved how the man celebrated his wandering son's return with a party and how much he loved Both of his sons: the faithful son and the wandering son. I think that must be how God is with us too.

Finally, Shabbat passed and we could gather our things and come back to the tomb. We were not very talkative walking to Jesus' burial site. The only thing that seemed to be on any of our minds was “Are we going to be able to move the stone?” But when we got there, it was just light enough to see that the stone had already been moved! Now that was weird! Who? How? What had moved the stone? We could not fathom. We looked into the tomb and our Rabbi's body was gone! Now we were frightened. The Romans took him? The Jewish Council took him? Who? How? Where is our Master?

Then, we saw Them. Two men in dazzling white. One of the other women said the word I could not form: Angels. We fell to the ground, holding our faces in our hands. I was trembling. Others were crying and sobbing. I tried to look at the men again. They spoke, ““Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”

We were stunned. We stood up and dusted our clothes off. We looked at each other in silence. Then, I remembered something Jesus had said, ““The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law,

and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life." ¹ Why did we forget that at this time?

We did not know what else to do, so we went to find the men who had been the closest to Jesus to let them know that He was Risen! We got excited as we walked, ran, skipped to where they were staying. We began talking louder and more excitedly as we hurried along the road. We must have sounded like a babbling stream by the time we got to their house.

I think that we all fairly shouted at Peter that Jesus is Alive that he was Risen From Dead, just like He said he would. Peter must have just woke up from his sleep or perhaps, he had not slept anymore than the rest of us had because he did not take our news so well. He called us Crazy! He said we were telling Idle Tales! We didn't care. He could say what he wanted to; He left the house and went to Jesus' tomb to see for himself. We ran with him back to the tomb. Peter climbed into the short tomb, bending almost double, and saw the linen tomb clothes lying there in a pile like Jesus had left them. Jesus, our Master did what he said he was going to do. Jesus is Right! He went through all the pain of the arrest, trials, scourging, and his death on the cross and he rose again!! He is Alive!!

What can this mean for you today?

You are to Remember that Jesus the Christ, our Savior is Alive today as He was in my day. Jesus is Alive. When we Remember Jesus is Alive, we are keeping Him in the present day. He goes before us in all of our lives, in your lives. Your world is full of despair, loneliness, fear, temptation, death, pain but Christ our Savior goes before you in all of these things. He is present even before you realize He is there. That is Prevenient Grace. ² He told us and we forgot that He said would suffer and die, and that on the third day he would Rise again. He IS RIGHT!!

You have to remember you are not looking for a memorial stone to remember Jesus by. You are to remember Jesus in a way that makes Him alive to the people you meet. Remember Jesus as I did, and go tell others. Tell people even if they think that you are telling Idle Tales as Peter did. Remembering is what makes the memories real and brings them into the present. You are planting the seed of curiosity and people will check your story out and find for themselves that HE IS RIGHT!! He is Alive!

Jesus Our Savior is Alive!!

¹ Luke 9:22 NIV.

² "It can be easy to "see" the risen Christ in a packed Easter Sunday worship service, or perhaps even in a sunrise or the spring flowers blooming; but where is the risen Jesus when the people return home -- to the drudgery of the same old things? The risen Christ has gone there ahead of them. They will see him.

It might also be added, that no one can leave Christ behind. When the men in the garden and the women at the tomb run away from Jesus; when the worshipers leave the church building -- they cannot get away from Christ. He goes ahead of them." Brian Stoffregen. <http://www.crossmarks.com/brian/mark16x1.htm>