

4/10/20, 4/4/10

The Only Hope For Sinners
Jn. 20:1-23

Have you ever experienced something and concluded that it was the worse thing that could happen to you, when in fact it became the biggest blessing?

Such was the case for the disciples, when Jesus was crucified and place in the tomb, but on Easter Sunday their dreams and hope that had been shattered was made alive!

The women who loved Jesus went to the tomb early in the morning to anoint the body and their hope was revived as a result their lives changed for ever.

Easter Sunday morning was characterized by three things. Jn. 20:1-23

- I. The tomb filled with hope. vs. 1-10
- II. The woman in need of hope. vs. 11-18
- III. The disciples entrusted with the greatest hope. vs. 19-23

I. The tomb filled with hope. vs. 1-10

A. Mary Magdelene misunderstood the empty tomb. vs. 1-2

- 1. Mary was the first to the tomb. vs. 1
 - a. She came on the first day, Sunday.

- 1) Each of the synoptic gospels describe it a bit different, giving us a complete account.
 - 2) Matthew mentions “the other Mary”, while Mark names Mary the mother of James and Solome. Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1
 - 3) The women were bringing spices to anoint the body of Jesus.
- b. She came early in the morning, while it was still dark, early dawn.
* All four gospels say this!
- c. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.
* Their conversation had been who would roll away the stone for them, but God sent an earthquake and an angel rolled away the stone. Matt. 28:2; Mk. 16:3-4
- d. John omits the angels when the women came to the tomb, which are recorded in the synoptic gospel.
- 1) The angels told the women that Jesus had risen in all three. Matt. 28:6; Mk. 16:6; Lk 24:7
 - 2) The angels asked them why they were seeking the living among the dead. Lk. 24:5
2. Mary then ran to tell two of the disciples. vs. 2
- a. She came to Peter. vs. 2a

- 1) Peter had denied the Lord three times. Matt. 26:74; Mk. 14:72; Lk. 22:60
 - 2) Peter had last seen Jesus as his eye met the eyes of Jesus in his third denial. Lk. 22:61a
 - 3) Mary and the other women did so at the angelic instruction.
 - 4) Matthew says the angels told the women to tell the disciples. Matt. 28:7
 - 5) Mark adds “and Peter”. Mk. 16:7
 - 6) Luke says they remembered His words and returned from the tomb and told the eleven and all the rest. Lk. 24:8-9
- b. She came to John. vs. 2b-c
- 1) John was the one whom Jesus loved. Jn. 21:20
 - 2) John had been at the cross and heard Jesus command him to care for His mother. Jn. 19:27
 - 3) The one who saw Jesus die, from afar off. Matt. 27:55; Mk. 15:40-41
- c. She came and told them both that someone had removed the Lord’s body. vs. 2d-e
- 1) “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb”.
 - 2) “We do not know where they have laid Him”.

B. Peter and John inspected the empty tomb. vs. 3-8

1. The two disciples went out to the tomb. vs. 3-4
 - a. Both left at the same times. vs. 3
 - b. John outran Peter to the tomb, probably because he was faster. vs. 4
2. The two men inspected the tomb. vs. 5-8
 - a. John stooped to look in and saw the linen cloths lying there. vs. 5
 - 1) The word stooping “parakupto”, means to bend down and forwards to get a better view, which is used for the very colorful description of the angels who desire to look into the things of the church. 1Pet. 1:12
 - 2) The word used for “looking in” and “saw” is the word “blepo”, it means to see at a glance or a single look.
 - 3) John did not go in, perhaps to not be ceremonially defiled?
 - b. Peter entered into the tomb. vs. 6-7
 - 1) He saw the linen cloths lying there also. vs. 6
 - a) Peter as usual is impulsive and runs right in.
 - b) The word for saw “theoreo”, means to look closely, critically in order to inspect.
 - c) Peter was not hesitant because he had not forgotten the last look of compassion on the eye of Jesus.

- 2) He saw the face cloth that had been around the head of Jesus separate from the linen cloths by itself. vs. 7
 - a) The phrase folded together “entulisso”, means undisturbed as if there was still a body.
 - b) The conclusion being that no one had stolen the body for no one could nor would leave the wrappings as such.
- c. John also entered the tomb. vs. 8
 - 1) This time John saw and believed.
 - 2) The word for saw “eido” is different from the one in verse five and six, it means to know, be aware, be sure that Jesus had risen.
 - 3) The result was that he believed “episteusen” in the aorist tense, indicating a decisive act not a process. vs. 25, 27, 29

C. John comments on the empty tomb. vs. 9-10

1. The two disciples did not know the scriptures, that Jesus must rise again from the dead. vs. 9
 - a. The understanding of spiritual truth is not a matter of intellectual capacity, but a matter of revelation and faith.
 - b. Both did not perceive nor understand at this point the full meaning of the Scripture and in the context refers to the

- resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Ps. 16:9-10; Is. 26:19; 53:10-12
- c. There is no contradiction to the statement that John saw and believed in verse nine.
 - * One can believe God’s word without understanding completely what God promises or declares, through faith.
 2. The two disciples went home. vs. 10
 - a. The word home is in the plural, each to his home.
 - b. The disciple John would be going to the place where Mary the mother of Jesus was, for he had taken her in, as Jesus commanded him.

Illustration

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.” Matt. 27:62-66

Application

1. There are still people who misunderstand the empty tomb in our day.

- a. Some people think that the empty tomb, is merely a lie that has been recorded.
- b. Others believe the tomb is only a religious symbol, rejecting the resurrection of Jesus.
- c. Still others believe Jesus never died, but only fainted, came to and removed by the disciples.
 - * The Jews gave the soldiers at the tomb money and told them to say the disciples stole the body of Jesus by night and secure them from the governor. And it became a common saying among the Jews. Matt. 28:12-15

2. There are others who have examined the facts of the empty tomb, still do not believe the hope God offers through the resurrection.

- a. This is despite all the evidence presented in the Scriptures.
- b. This is despite all the historical documentation.
- c. This is despite the personal testimony of Christians.
- d. This is not based on mere intellect, but by Biblical faith, that points to the revelation of the word of God.
 - * “Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen... But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Heb. 11:1, 6

The tomb was filled with hope because Jesus had risen!

II. The woman in need of hope. vs. 11-18

- A. Mary was consumed with her sorrow. vs. 11-13
 - 1. Mary stands in contrast to the two disciples that went home by the word “but”.
 - a. They left.
 - b. She stayed.
 - 2. Mary stood outside the tomb weeping, sobbing as she stooped and looked in. vs. 11
 - a. Jesus had cast out seven demons from her. Mk. 16:9; Lk. 8:2
 - b. She had experienced life, as never before.
 - 3. Mary saw two angels. vs. 12
 - a. The angels were in white.
 - * The examination of the other gospels will show angels were seen at different times and numbers throughout the visit to the tomb, before and after.
 - b. One angel sat at the head, the other at the foot, where the body laid, a beautiful picture of the mercy seat and the two Cherubim, where God’s glory appeared.
 - 4. Mary is mildly rebuked by the angels. vs. 13
 - a. The angels addressed her with respect “woman”.
 - b. The angels asked her, “Why are you weeping?”

* Earlier they said, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” Lk. 24:5

- c. She told the angels that “they”, probably the Jews had taken away her Lord and she did not know where they had laid Him.

B. Mary was blinded by her sorrow. vs. 14-15

1. She turned around not being impressed, nor excited about the angels for they were insignificant to Jesus. vs. 14
2. She turned and saw Jesus standing there and did not know that it was He. vs. 14
3. Jesus spoke to her and said, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” vs. 15
 - a. She was so consumed in her sorrow, she supposed Jesus was the gardener.
 - b. She began to declare to Him that if He had carried Jesus away, to tell her where He had laid Him and she would take Him away.
 - 1) Five times she used the personal pronoun “Him” in this verse, revealing her love for her Lord.
 - 2) Fervent love has no limitations, she was willing to carry the body herself, which would have been impossible!

C. Mary was comforted in her sorrow. vs. 16-18

1. Jesus called out her name, “Mary!” and she acknowledge Him as “Rabboni!” which John interprets for us “teacher”. vs. 16

* Some commentators make the note that this term was used for God.
2. Jesus instructed Mary. vs. 17
 - a. She did not want to loose Him again, so she clung to Him by the feet in a worshipful manner. Matt. 28:9
 - b. Jesus tells her not to cling to Him for He had not ascended to His Father yet.
 - 1) The reason was not that He could not be touch after the resurrection, for Thomas was told to touch Him!
 - 2) Matthew says Jesus appeared to the women, as they went to tell His disciples and taking hold of His feet and worshipped Him. Then He told them to tell the disciples to go to Galilee. Matt. 28:9-10
 - c. Jesus tells her to go tell His brethren the disciples that He was ascending to His Father and her Father and to His God and her God.
 - 1) The new relationship had begun, He was their brother and God was their Father, never “our Father”.
 - 2) This ascension of Jesus seems to of taken place between this account and when Jesus appeared to the ten in the upper room?

3. Mary was obedient to her commission. vs. 18
 - a. She told the disciples two things.
 - 1) She had seen the Lord.
 - 2) He had spoken those words to her.
 - b. She was only responsible for the message as a herald.
 - 1) Mary departed from the tomb with fear and great joy to tell the disciples. Matt. 28:8
 - 2) Mary's words were believed to be idle tales and they did not believe her. Lk. 24:11

Illustration

The two men on the road to Emmaus were full of sorrow as Jesus joined them in conversation concealing His person and they told Him all about their lost hope, then Jesus said, "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And

they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" Lk. 24:26-32

Application

1. Maybe you are consumed and burdened with things, that make life not quite what it should be.
 - a. It could be an illness or the corona virus.
 - b. The loss of a job or an unforgiving heart.
 - c. Your difficult marriage or financial debt.
 - d. Maybe it is your inability to age gracefully.
 - * "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1Pet. 5:6-7
2. Jesus wants to reveal Himself to you, as He did to Mary, as the risen Christ, He is not dead.
 - a. The One who can give you hope for this life and well as after death.
 - b. The One who can change your perspective on life and the ability to live it out.
 - c. The One who can teach you the right priorities and impart wisdom.
 - d. The One who can give you peace for the difficulties of life.
 - * "And you will **seek** Me and **find** Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:13
3. Jesus then will open doors for you to share with others that Jesus is alive and risen.
 - a. Some will think you have lost it.

- b. Others will mock you.
- c. Still others will feel sorry for you.
- c. But there will be some that will believe you and in faith come to Jesus.

* The people said to the woman of Samaria,
 “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.” Jn. 4:42

The woman was in need of hope because she did not believe Jesus had risen!

III. The disciples entrusted with the greatest hope. vs. 19-23

- A. The disciples were fearful in a room. vs. 19-20
 - 1. The circumstances were not peaceful. vs. 19
 - a. The account was on the same day, Sunday, but at evening. vs. 19a-b
 - b. The door was shut. vs. 19c
 - c. The disciples were assembled due to their fear of the Jews. vs. 19-e
 - d. Then the Lord Jesus came and stood in the midst of them. vs. 19f-g
 - e. The proclamation was, “Peace be with you.” vs. 19h-i
 - 2. The circumstances were altered. vs. 20
 - a. Jesus showed them His hands and side.
 - 1) They marked the wounds of the crucifixion.

- 2) The wounds represented the payment for sin on the world's behalf, providing peace with God. Rom. 5:1
- 3) They represented the sacrifice of love for them and the world.
- b. Jesus turned their fear into gladness.
 - 1) The presence of Jesus made all the difference.
 - 2) The person and presence of perfect love casts out all fear. 1Jn. 4:18
 - 3) The power of death did not hold Him, giving them living hope.

- B. The disciples were commissioned. vs. 21
 - 1. Jesus proclaimed the peace that was to accompany them in their commission.
 - a. This peace was His not the peace of the world, as He had told and promised them. Jn. 14:27
 - b. This peace would surpass all understanding. Phil. 4:6-7
 - 2. Jesus was sending them, as the Father had sent Him.
 - a. The word sent in reference to Jesus is “apostaken” and indicates delegated authority with an enduring aspect.
 - b. The word send in reference to the disciples is “pempo”, which indicates one dispatched under authority, in the present tense, a continuing activity.

C. The disciples were equipped to preach the word of God. vs. 22-23

1. Jesus breathed on them the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The act was at the same time of their commission.
 - b. The act was a command.
2. The account reminds us of the account of man's creation as God breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life and he became a living soul. Gen. 2:7
 - a. The disciples were already believers in Jesus, as Messiah or they could not of come this far.
 - 1) Jesus said He had chosen the twelve and one was a devil. Jn. 6:70
 - 2) Jesus told them that the eleven were completely clean. Jn. 13:10
 - 3) Jesus said they were clean by the words He had spoken to them. Jn. 15:3
 - b. The experience was not merely symbolic and should not be explained away in such manner .
 - c. The event was a real reception of the Holy Spirit into their lives at this point of their lives.
 - d. The promise of Pentecost was still to come, in order to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 2

3. The authority of their proclamation was based on what Jesus had accomplished. vs. 23
 - a. The text is not teaching that the disciples in and of themselves had personal power to forgive any person's sins nor to not forgive them.
 - * The Catholic church uses this text for the authority of the priest to forgive sins, not so!
 - b. Two other times this phrase is used of binding or loosening" in the New Testament which are used out of their context for binding Satan, but refer to what will be permitted and what will not, in line with the word of God.
 - 1) The first is to Peter as the keys of the Kingdom were given to him to preach the good news according to the gospel by Jesus. Matt. 16:19
 - 2) The second is regarding church discipline as to what will be agreed upon by two or three according to be scriptures. Matt. 18:18
 - c. The text before us is talking about the efficaciousness and sufficiency of the atonement for all the sins of mankind by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The good news to be proclaimed in order that whoever believes the message would be

the recipient of salvation and if they rejected it they would not be saved.

- d. The text is teaching the right and authority of every person who is born again to confidently and lovingly assure any sinner, based on their repentance, their sins are forgiven and they are justified in Jesus Christ, a new creature. 2Cor. 5:17

Illustration

Paul, “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:3-7

Application

1. Fear is paralyzing and there are many things in life that can cause us to fear.

- a. Fear of losing friends.
- b. Fear of losing your health.
- c. Fear of the violence in our society.
- d. Fear of death.

* Jesus said, “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” Matt. 11:28-30

- 2. Jesus desires to make Himself known to you that you might entrust your life to Him as your Lord and Savior.
 - a. Seeing yourself as a sinner, lost in need of salvation.
 - b. Calling on Jesus to forgive you of your sins.
 - c. Becoming His disciple to be used to reach other by His word and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Knowing that you have eternal life and you will be instantly present before Jesus, the minute you take your last breath.
 - * “Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jn. 3:3
- 3. Jesus then wants to use you to reach other that have no hope or a false hope.
 - a. Telling them that Jesus is the only way to God. Jn. 14:6
 - b. Telling them that Jesus is the only name God honors for a person’s salvation. Acts 4:12
 - c. Telling them Jesus is the only mediator, between God and man. 2Tim. 2:5

The disciples were entrusted with the greatest hope because Jesus had risen!

Conclusion

Easter Sunday morning was characterized by these three things:

- I.** The tomb was filled with hope because Jesus had risen!
- II.** The woman was in need of hope because she did not believe Jesus had risen!
- III.** The disciples were entrusted with the greatest hope because Jesus had risen!