

Jesus – Raised to New Life

Thomas Robinson, *Easter Sunday*, April 8, 2012

Matthew 28:1-7; 16-20

- ¹ After the Sabbath, at dawn on **the first day of the week**,
Mary Magdalene and the other **Mary** went to look at the **tomb**.
- ² There was a violent **earthquake**, for an **angel of the Lord** came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, **rolled back the stone** and sat on it.
- ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
- ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.
- ⁵ The angel said to the women,
*“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for **Jesus, who was crucified**.*
⁶ ***He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.***
*Come and see the **place where he lay**.*
- ⁷ *Then go quickly and **tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.**” ...*
- ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to **Galilee**, to the **mountain** where **Jesus** had told them to go.
- ¹⁷ When they saw him, **they worshiped him**; but **some doubted**.
- ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said,
*“**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.***
- ¹⁹ *Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations,***
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ ***and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.***
*And surely **I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”*

Romans 6:1-11

- ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to **continue in sin** that grace may abound?
- ² **By no means!** How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Messiah/Christ Jesus** were **baptized into his death**?
- ⁴ We were **buried therefore with him by baptism into death**,
in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father**,
we too might walk in newness of life.
- ⁵ For if we have been **united with him in a death like his**,
we shall certainly be **united with him in a resurrection like his**.
- ⁶ We know that **our old self was crucified with him**
in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing,
so that we would **no longer be enslaved to sin**.
- ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.
- ⁸ Now **if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him**.
- ⁹ We know that **Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again**;
death no longer has dominion over him.
- ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.
- ¹¹ So **you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus**.

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

²⁵ For he (the Messiah Jesus) **must reign** until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.**

The Event of Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' Resurrection pulses at the very heart of Christian faith. Many other parts of his story are crucial – incarnation, crucifixion, proclamation, teaching, miraculous signs – but none would even be known except for the unique event of that morning, 1,982 years ago. Every witness from Pentecost to Paul to the Gospels is driven by the stunning reality of that event.

The narration is in Paul and all four Gospels: early memories, oft repeated, with variations.

The disciples were skeptics. No disciple expected resurrection or had a theology to make sense of it until they actually experienced it and began to see and learn what it meant.

Matthew's narrative is dramatic, but Jesus is already risen. Angel, earthquake, stunned guards only make it possible for the Marys to see the empty tomb and receive the message for the other disciples. Then Jesus himself greets them on the way (28:9-10) with welcome and joy.

The Meaning of Jesus' Resurrection

The disciples approach Jesus on a mountain (like the Sermon on the Mount) with worship and doubt. Is it Jesus? Should they worship? What can this mean? Yet struck by the event itself. Jesus alone can teach them the meaning of the unique event and point them to the future.

"All Authority" – Real, eternal authority from self-giving service & death (not like rulers 20:25-8).

Jesus is King. The Kingdom of God that was "near" now comes with power (16:28 Mk 9:1).

He reigns uniquely till death is overcome (1Cor 15:26). A process of transformation without coercion by the power of his ongoing presence: *"I am with you always"* – Emmanuel (1:23).

Jesus' teaching (SoM) changes from hard law to transforming promise by his involvement.

"All nations" – Israel's Messiah is the whole world's life-giving King – no barriers; all included.

No conquest or empire. Jesus takes the long, challenging way: "Make disciples"/learners.

People need real life, real transformation on every level. Teach all to keep all that I taught you. Jesus' teaching frames, fills, gives meaning to the events, defines the Kingdom of God.

"Baptize them." Perhaps unexpected. Not just instruction/wisdom. That wouldn't bring real change.

Plunging people into God, a direct connection to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Building God's kingdom is God's work in which we participate by testimony and teaching.

The whole person is plunged: He is king of every part of life, from individual to the world.

The Impact of Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection was an event that changes all choices of life as people experience the new reality of life it reveals. In Romans 6 Paul writes to a church he has never visited confident that they share a common transformation by participating in Jesus' death and resurrection.

In baptism we don't just symbolize an event, we find ourselves in the event itself with many layers of meaning to be experienced. Jesus' death is my death to sin, death of an old self, freedom from slavery/addiction to sin. Jesus' resurrection from the dead is my rising to new life, a new walk (way of living), a new promise of future resurrection like him.

The life God gives is Resurrection Life. Jesus sends us out to share that gift with the world.