

Useless Worries

Անօգուտ Մտահոգութիւններ

Mark 16:1-8

Here we are, in Holy Week we come to end, yet it never will be the end, it will be the beginning for everything.

Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed.

“Krisdos haryav ee merelots, orhnyal e haroutune Krisdosi.”

Christ is risen from the dead; blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

This morning although my passage is from Mark, but I will elaborate on this most important reality from different gospel writers.

The resurrection of Jesus is not an ideology; it is not a floating thought; it is a reality, and it affects our lives. It effected my life. Without is my preaching is useless as Paul says.

Because Jesus is risen, I can have new life.

Because Jesus is risen, sin and death are defeated.

Because he lives, I can experience the power of the resurrection in my life.

Did the resurrection shock them? Did the power of resurrection make an impact on them?

Here are some points discussing the passage:

1.The first one is Joseph of Arimathea. **Joseph** was a wealthy man (Matthew 27:57), and according to Mark:

Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. (Mark 15:43 ESV).

A man with such a rank not only followed Jesus but I believe he was one of his secret disciples.

Those days most people did not have their own tombs. They did not have coffins either. The dead were buried in places like caves and the door was covered with square shaped stones.

Joseph owned his own tomb, a new one. Who could own a tomb in those days while still alive? Apparently, Joseph was very wealthy. He wanted Jesus to be buried in his own new tomb.

Joseph asks Pilate for permission to bury Jesus' body. He wants to arrange a decent burial for Jesus.

2. Anointing the body of Jesus

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. (Mark 16:1-4 ESV)

On the morning of the Resurrection **the women** (*Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, Mark 16:1*) were walking towards the tomb. They wanted to anoint Jesus' body. They could not do it on Friday. However, it was late, and the Sabbath observance had started at sundown. Anointing the body was done **as a respect and devotion to the departed one.**

-**John's Gospel** says that **Nicodemus** also brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.

-*Interesting observation:* Just a few days ago, when Jesus was reclining in Simon's home, a woman came (could be Mary Magdalene) **with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.** (Mark 14:3 ESV). People criticized the action that Jesus allowed her to do that. They thought "What a waste!" But the answer of Jesus was: **She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.** (Mark 14:8b ESV)

3. Those women who came early morning were **anxiously** asking: "**Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?**" They arrived and the stone was already rolled!

All characters, Joseph, Nicodemus, and the women had legitimate concerns. Yet, on resurrection morning God told them that these were **useless worries.**

Thank you, Joseph, for the new tomb where no one was ever laid.

Thank you, Nicodemus, for using an expensive mixture of myrrh and aloes.

Thank you, women, who brought spices, to go and anoint Jesus.

Thank you for waking up so early and walking toward the tomb to arrange the post-burial rituals while knowing it would be impossible to move that heavy door.

But remember your concerns and worries were useless.

Jesus did not need a fancy tomb;
he did not need expensive burial rituals;
he did not want the women to worry about the impossible situation.

4. The women saw an Angel (young man) from God:

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. (Mark 16:5-6 ESV)

Matthew describes the angel in the tomb saying: **“His countenance was like a lightning, and his clothing as white as the snow (28:3);**

Luke speaks about the angel saying: **“shining garments” (24:4)**

“It was obvious to the woman that this was a supernatural being.”¹

Where is the body of Jesus?

I don't have any scientific answer to that.

“Only a divine being can disclose divine truth that is beyond ordinary human experience and knowledge, and the angel explains the meaning of the empty tomb.”²

Faith has a major role in understanding what is going on here.

Only if you tune your ears and eyes towards the divine presence of God, you can experience and understand the resurrection of Jesus.

God moved the stone; God raised Jesus from death; God sent an angel...

As God promised, He is keeping His promises.

On Friday they were mocking Jesus saying:

“He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

“If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” (Luke 23:35-36 ESV)

Today the angel said: **“He has risen”.**

“God reverses Jesus’ miserable earthly fate, fulfilling his predictions that he would rise again (8:31; 9:31; 10:34)³

The tomb, the new tomb, was and is empty because Jesus is alive. Jesus cannot remain dead. The Resurrection of Jesus is a reality.

5. Go to Galilee

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

(Mark 16:7-8 ESV)

The Angel asks the women to go out and inform the disciples, especially Peter, that the risen Jesus will be in Galilee; **“There you will see him.”**

- “Jesus is going before you.” How comforting is that.

The good shepherd goes before us; the risen Lord will go before us.

Jesus told the disciples:

“You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’²⁸ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” (Mark 14:27,28 ESV)

Jesus knew the disciples will be scattered. Fine, like a good shepherd he will gather his sheep.

Where?

Not in Jerusalem, but in Galilee,

Why there? Christ is waiting his followers to come to the place where they were called to be disciples.

“If any want to see Jesus for themselves, they must leave the tomb and go where he leads-- to Galilee, back to the beginning, where one must learn to follow him again. If we ask where the Christ is, Mark's answer is that he is always on ahead of us, leading us on to new lands. Jesus is to be found today in obedience to his command.”⁴

Application:

1. Dont be afraid, Do not be alarmed, Let your hearts not be troubled.

I don't know about you, but I am worrier.

Someone said: “Why pray when you can worry?!”

When Jesus says, **“do not be anxious about your life”** (Matt 6:25). It gives me comfort that He knows me and my anxieties. If God cares for the birds and for the flowers, how much more do you think He cares for you and me? The resurrection of Jesus is a proof that he cares, and I can rely on his promises.

Paul said: **“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”** (Romans 8:31-32)

2. Experience the power of resurrection everyday

God rescued Israel from the sea, same God raised His Son Jesus Christ from the grave. His resurrection has saving power for all who confess Him as Son of God and follow Him in obedience.

Can you see Jesus?

We live post resurrection. Jesus sends us the HS to help us to see things. Unfortunately, the world rejects him. Jesus said that the Spirit will come one day, yet:

even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:17 ESV)

Ask from HS to open your eyes of heart to see the resurrected Jesus and experience the power of resurrection in your life.

3. Jesus one step ahead of me.

Go to Galilee. Where is your Galilee? Where is the place God called you to become his disciple? Leave the tomb, He is not there. Go back to where you first started following him. He is in Fresno, He is everywhere... He is calling disciples everywhere to follow Him. Did you hear his call? He is calling you this morning.

Leave alone your useless worries and live the power of the Resurrection. **“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.”** (Phil. 3:10).

1. R.C. Sproul, He Thought Them as One Who Had Authority Mark, P 377
2. David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary*, Mark P 613
3. *ibid*, P 614
4. *ibid* P 624