



## The Passion of Jesus Pt 7: The Resurrection!

Holy Week, April 1, 2018

### Holy Text: Matthew 28:1-20

Good Morning precious friends! **Jesus is Alive!**

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ!” (1 Cor 15:55-57)

Indeed, *"And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." 1Co 15:17-22 (KJV)*

Hallelujah!

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**" 1Pe 1:3-9 (KJV)*

Friends, today, in keeping with our walk through Holy Week over the last few days, I'd simply like to offer a few thoughts from Matthew 28, prayerfully for your encouragement and strengthening. If you missed parts 2-6, please feel free to visit my YouTube Channel. Our goal this week has been to immerse ourselves in what the LORD went through and taught and have a better sense of the chronological events leading to His crucifixion and resurrection.

### THE RESURRECTION!

*Mat 28:1 (KJV) In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.*

- The “other Mary” here is likely “Mary the mother of James and Joses, the mother of Zebedee’s children.” (Matt 27:55-56, 61)
- After his brutal arrest, trial, torture, mocking and scourging, Jesus was buried in the tomb (or sepulchre) of Joseph of Arimathaea, who himself was a disciple of Jesus.

- Prior to this act, he had kept his faith secret for “fear of the Jews.” (John 19:38) I wonder what this humble sacrifice cost Joseph, who was likely a member of the religious ruling class. (“Honorable counselor” or “member of the High Council,” NLT)
- What are you willing to sacrifice for Jesus?

*Mat 28:2 (KJV) And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.*

- This wonderful detail is something that is often missed: there was an earthquake!
- Indeed friends many interesting things transpired that points to the truth that God the Son, the KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS, had accomplished His holy mission. For example:

*Mat 27:45 (KJV) Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.*

- From noon to 3pm (Jesus was on the cross from 9am-3pm), this otherworldly darkness descended upon the land...as if all of creation was mourning!

*Mat 27:50-51 (KJV) Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. 51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;*

- Not only was the thick, heavy veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Temple (wherein was the Ark of the Covenant) torn from top to bottom (remember, your house is left unto you desolate...however a new way into God’s Presence is not in effect!)...but there was a first earthquake! The world was quaking!

*Mat 27:52-53 (KJV) And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

- Perhaps strangest of all was this “Good Friday Resurrection.”
- Even ungodly people had the sense to acknowledge the deity of Jesus...

*Mat 27:54 (KJV) Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

*Mat 28:3-5 (KJV) His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.*

- I’d just like to remind you again, saint of God, that you are involved in something much more than the mundane musing of this earthly life.
- YOU are an eternal soul...a being with a body, a soul, and a spirit (1 Thes 5:23). You were created by God to glorify Him and enjoy Him FOREVER.
- All around us are spiritual beings we cannot see...ministering spirits called angels and other not so pleasant entities. They are moving, doing, and interacting with this world and another world.
- What you SEE isn’t ALL there IS. LIFT your vision! Trust and believe in Christ! For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places!

Mat 28:6 (KJV) *He is not here: for **he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

- Hallelujah! HE IS RISEN!
- This is the foundational truth of Christianity! Indeed, "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very capstone in the arch of Christianity."
- This earthshaking truth (literally and figuratively) should shake your life! If you believe that Jesus rose from the dead, NOTHING in your life should be the same!
- True believers must be reminded of the Gospel, for it alone can save and transform!
- Friends, Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; He was buried; He rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures!

Mat 28:7 (KJV) *And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.*

- We must do the same! Go quickly! Remind and encourage other disciples that Jesus is alive! Know that He goes before you to manifest Himself to you and strengthen you!
- Remember, "he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Heb 13:5-6)
- And look how these obedient, holy women responded...

Mat 28:8 (KJV) *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*

Mat 28:9-10 (KJV) *And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.*

- Friends, when we respond to Heaven in obedience, Jesus meets us there!
- Why? Because He knows we are afraid, mistake-prone sinners! We NEED HIS Presence and His grace.
- We need His encouragement and strengthening. We need humility that comes from true worship AND the assurance of His confirmed Word!

Mat 28:11-15 (KJV) *Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

- Friends, "until this day," this and many other theories persist.
- But from the **Fatality** of the torment Christ suffered, the **Empty** Tomb (without which Christianity would not have survived), the post-Resurrection **Appearances** (Paul wrote that Jesus was seen alive by "five hundred brethren at once, 1 Cor 15:6), and the **Transformed** lives of the Apostles, there can be no doubt. (F.E.A.T.)
- Jesus is Alive!

*Mat 28:16-17 (KJV) Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.*

- It's astonishing that while standing there, on the appointed mountain, looking at the risen LORD, "some doubted."
- I don't pretend to know what this means, but it does give me hope.
- Our LORD chose to use sinful men and women in His service, with all our doubts, fears, and failures.
- Honest Christians will admit to doubt at times, even after all God has done in their lives.
- Friends, take your doubts to God in Christ. He loves you and will shore up your doubt and give you courage. This is EXACTLY what He did for the Eleven!

*Mat 28:18-20 (KJV) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

- The resurrection narrative in Mathew closes with one of, if not, the most important mandates for the Church.
- We are to GO, TEACH all nations, and BAPTIZE them. In other words, we are to GO and make disciples.
- We are to make these disciples, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, by teaching, not some, but "all things" our LORD has commanded.
- In God's mercy, within this great commission is a promise of the power the presence of the LORD. He'll be with us always, no matter what, unto the end of the world.

**This, in addition to worship, is how we should spend our short time on earth. THIS is the adventure of a lifetime. THIS is what matters for time and for eternity. THIS is the heart of the resurrected LORD.**

May we ALL be about the LORD's business. Amen!

#### APPLICATIONS FOR EDIFICATION (BUILDING UP) AND ENCOURAGEMENT

(ROM 14:19; EPH 4:9; 1 THES 5:11; JUDE 1:20)

1. Do you believe that "He is risen?"
2. If so, can you discern how this, the greatest of all Gospel truths is impacting your life on a daily basis?
3. Are your children confident yet in the resurrection of Jesus?
4. What might a confident knowledge in the resurrection do to your fears and concerns?
5. Should anxiety, unforgiveness, and fear be able to exist long in the heart of someone who can boldly declare that "Jesus is alive?" :)