



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The Story of the Crucifixion **does not need commentary;**
 - As its power resides **simply in the telling.**
 - Without question, the crucifixion of Jesus **was an excruciating and painful way to die,** which Jesus was willing to accept without pain-killing drugs **(Matthew 27:32-35)**

- It was a **shameful** way to die,
- **Mocked** by those who watched,
- Crucified with common **thieves**
(**Matthew 27:36-44**)

- Along with the physical suffering, there was the spiritual agony (Matthew 27:45-50)

- While there may be a place for contemplating upon the actual physical agony Jesus endured that will not be our purpose today.

- Jesus did not want people to weep for Him, but for themselves
(**Luke 23:26-31**)

- Even on the cross,
His concern for others
was evident.

- “**Father, forgive them;
for they know not
what they do”**
(Luke 23:34)

- **The terrible thing about sin** is that we cannot put the clock back.
 - **We cannot undo** what we have done.
 - Once a thing is done **nothing can alter it** or bring it back.
 - **How many of us have** that haunting longing for some hour to be lived over again.
 - When we remember that **no action can ever be recalled.**

- The good news is that Jesus is the “**Prince of Peace**”.
(**Isaiah 9:6**)
- That is what the resurrection story is all about- “**Peace**”.
 - Its what you and I want,
 - And it is what the world wants.
 - It is what the 3,000 on Pentecost wanted.

- In each of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the resurrection story of Jesus is told a little bit differently.
- But two common themes are consistent in all four gospels;
 - In each instance it was women who were first to go to the empty tomb and learn of the resurrection of Jesus,
 - And in each instance, there were angels waiting at the tomb to tell them the good news.

- It was Mary and Mary Magdalene who made their way at sunrise, to complete the painful task of embalming Jesus' body for burial.
- The burial took place hurriedly on Friday afternoon because the Sabbath was about to begin at dusk,
 - So these faithful women took it upon themselves to finish the job at the first light of Sunday morning.

- ◆ They were worried about one thing.
 - ◆ The tomb had no door.
- ◆ When the word door is mentioned it really means opening.
 - ◆ In front of the opening was a groove,
and in the groove
ran a circular stone
as big as a cart-wheel;

- ♦ And the women knew that it was quite beyond their strength to move a stone like that.
 - ♦ But their faith pushed them on to the task at hand.
- ♦ So like Abraham of old they believed,
”*The Lord will provide*”
(**Genesis 22:14**)

- ♦ But when they reached the tomb,
the Lord had provided,
the stone was rolled away,
- ♦ And inside was a messenger
who gave them
the unbelievable news
that Jesus had risen
from the dead.

- Upon arrival they discovered that there had been **an earthquake overnight,**
 - And at the same time, **an angel of the Lord came and rolled the stone away** from the opening of the grave.
- Those events were so shocking, so astonishing, **that the Roman soldiers** who had been assigned to guard the grave **”became as dead men!”**
(**Matthew 28:4**)

- And sitting on the stone that he had rolled away was an angel, dressed in dazzling white,
- And he began speaking to Mary and Mary.
(**Matthew 28:5**)

- He spoke four truths to them.
- Four truths that would change the course of human history.
- Four truths that have echoed down the corridors of time, and still echo this morning.

- The 1st truth is this:

- “Do not be afraid”.

(**Matthew 28:5**)

- Have you ever noticed in reading the New Testament that, every time angels show up, they use the same opening line?

“Don’t be afraid!”

- They are urged to believe.
- The event is so staggering that it might seem beyond belief, too good to be true.
- The angel reminds them of the promise of Jesus,
(**Matthew 28:6**)
- And confronts them with the empty tomb;
 - His every word is a summons to believe.

- It is still a fact that there are many who feel that the promises of Christ are too good to be true.

- That hesitation can be dispelled only by taking him at his word.

- Nicholas Glyn Paul Gumbel was a Jewish atheist but converted to Christianity after reading through the New Testament.

- He commented

‘I was enthralled. It was as if I had found what I had been looking for all my life’

(Source:<http://infomory.com/famous/famous-atheists-turned-christian/>)

- The way Mary finds out she is pregnant with the baby Jesus is when the angel arrives and says

**“Mary, fear not;
you will conceive
and bear a son
and his name shall be ‘Jesus.’”
(Luke 1:30-31)**

- When Joseph finds out that Mary is with child, Gabriel comes and said “Joseph, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife”.
(Matthew 1:20)

- When the angels appear to the shepherds in the field,

the angel announces

“ **And the angel said unto them, Fear not:**

for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

(Luke 2:10)

- And now,
after grieving Jesus' death,
and waking up
to hopelessness,
these women are told
an amazing truth:
“Don't be afraid.”
(**Matthew 28:5**)

- Jesus had prophesied that their “sorrow” would be turned to “rejoicing” .
(John 16:22)

- For those who have met the Risen Lord live is given a new “joy” .

- God brings that message to you today?
- You have lost your job,
- You have lost a loved one,
- Or you have lost your house,
 - Or maybe you have lost your hope.

- And in the midst of this dark chapter, God assures you that **you are not alone in the darkness.**
- If we hear that message often enough in our lives, **someday we will begin to believe that it is true.**

- “Don't be afraid”,
God is with you.
- Don't be afraid,
fear does not have
the final word.
- Unless we allow it!
- “Don't be afraid”,
the angel said to:
Mary,
and Mary,
and
you & Me.

- The 2nd truth spoken grows out of the first.
 - “Don’t be afraid!”
Because Jesus
has risen
from the dead.

- They watched him die on the cross two days earlier;
- They saw the spear pierce his side,
 - And the water and blood pour forth.

- They witnessed Nicodemus and Joseph place the body in a cold, dark cave.
- And now the angel gives the women the best reason for not being afraid;
- Because Jesus is alive and well.

- He told his friends and his enemies alike **“Tear down this temple and it will be rebuilt in three days.”**

- They thought He was **speaking of the synagogue;**

- Who knew Jesus was **speaking about his body?**

- And if he was right **about the resurrection,**

- Then what **other truths** did he tell us?

- That we might be forgiven for our sins?

- Micah 7:19

He will...cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

- Isaiah 38:17

You have cast all my sins behind your back.

- I don't know that Mary and Mary were able to grasp all of these implications at that moment in time,
- But this much they believed at that very moment:
- The man they watched die on Friday was dead no more.

- And that is the **mother of all truths** for every Christian since that day.

- Jesus is alive, and for evermore!

- **Revelation 1:18**
**I am he that lives,
and was dead;
and, behold,**

- I am alive for evermore,...**

- The 3rd truth
included a bit of tangible proof:
 - The angel told them
"Come and see."
 - And sure enough
He wasn't there.
- The grave clothes were there;
- The linen cloth that wrapped his body
was neatly lying in the corner.
(**John 20:6-7**)
 - But the body of Jesus
was nowhere to be seen.

- For some through the ages,
these grave clothes
were not proof enough;
they needed physical evidence.
- We've all heard of Thomas,
who, when told of Jesus' resurrection, said
“**Unless I see him alive,
unless I can put my fingers
in the nail holes of his hands,
I will not believe.”**
(**John 20:25**)

- Maybe that describes you.
 - You need more.
 - Ancient writings won't do it for you.
 - You have to have hard evidence.

- You're in good company; millions of people have struggled with faith because they could not believe what they could not see.

- While the physical evidence is not available for viewing.

- The “Faith Evidence” still shines brightly.

- It is still a fact that there are many who feel that the promises of Christ are too good to be true.

- That hesitation can be dispelled only by taking him at his word.

- Nicholas Glyn Paul Gumbel was a Jewish atheist but converted to Christianity after reading through the New Testament.

- He commented

‘I was enthralled. It was as if I had found what I had been looking for all my life’

(Source:<http://infomory.com/famous/famous-atheists-turned-christian/>)

- One thing is certain:
 - If Jesus had not risen from the dead, we would never have heard of him again.
- The attitude of the women was that they had come to pay the last tribute to a dead body.
 - To embalm that body and get on with their lives.

- The attitude of the disciples was that everything had finished in tragedy.

- The Resurrection is the central fact of the whole Christian faith.

- 1Corinthians 15:19

If in Christ we have hope
in this life only,
we are of all people
most to be pitied.

- Because
we believe
in the Resurrection
certain things follow.

- Jesus is more than **a figure in a book.**
- **It is not enough**
to study the story of Jesus
like the life of any other
great historical figure.
- We may begin that way
but we must end
by meeting him.

- Jesus is more than a memory.
- The dearest memory fades.
 - The Greeks had a word to describe time meaning time which wipes all things out.
- Long since, time would have wiped out the memory of Jesus unless he had been a living presence forever with us.

- The Christian life is not the life of a man who knows about Jesus, but the life of a man who knows Jesus.

- There is all the difference in the world between knowing about a person and knowing a person.
- Most people know about Queen Elizabeth or the President of the United States but not so many know them.

- The greatest scholar in the world who knows everything about Jesus is less than the humblest Christian who knows him.

- 1Corinthians 1:20

Where is the wise person?

Where is the scholar? ...

Hasn't God turned the wisdom of the world into nonsense?

- There is an endless quality about the Christian faith.
- It should never stand still.
 - Because our Lord is a living Lord there are new wonders and new truths waiting to be discovered all the time.
 - Not new revelations.
- But new truths about ourselves!

- The 4th thing and maybe the most precious thing in this passage is in two words which are in no other gospel.

- "Go, and tell"
said the messenger.

- "Tell his disciples and Peter."
(**Mark 16:7-8**)

- How that message must have **cheered Peter's heart** when he received it!
 - He must have been **tortured with the memory** of his disloyalty,
 - And suddenly there came **a special message for him.**

- **It was characteristic of Jesus**
that he thought,
not of the wrong
Peter had done him
but of the remorse
he was undergoing.
- Jesus was far more eager
to comfort the penitent sinner
than to punish the sin.

- **“Go and tell.”**
(Matthew 28:7)
- You see, once we hear truth,
**we are compelled to tell
what we know to be true.**
- In the case of Mary and Mary,
they must have sprinted back
to tell the disciples everything
that they had seen and heard.

- **A first year student in a seminary** was told by the dean that he should plan to preach the sermon in chapel the following day.
 - He had **never** preached a sermon before, he was nervous and afraid, and he stayed up all night,
 - But in the morning, **he didn't have a sermon.**

- He stood in the pulpit,
looked out at his classmates
and said
 - “Do you know what
I am going to say?”
- All of them shook their heads “no”
and he said “Neither do I”.
- The service has ended.
”Go in peace.”

- **The dean was not happy.**

“I’ll give you another chance tomorrow, and you had better have a sermon.”

- Again he stayed up **all night;** and again he couldn’t come up with a sermon.

- Next morning, he stood in the pulpit and asked
- **“Do you know what I am going to say?”**
- The students all nodded their heads **“yes.”**
 - **“Then there is no reason to tell you”**
he said.
 - **“The service has ended. Go in peace.”**

- Now the dean was really angry.
“I’ll give you one more chance;
if you don’t have
a sermon tomorrow,
you will be asked
to leave the seminary.”

- Again,
no sermon came.

- He stood in the pulpit
the next day
and asked
- “Do you know what I am going to say?”
 - Half of the students nodded “yes”
- And the other half shook their heads “no.”
 - The student preacher
then announced
 - “Those who know,
tell those who don't know”.

- And for over 20 centuries, this has been the primary role of the church;

- To tell the world that there is hope because of Jesus.

- **If we share this story**
in what we **say**
and in the way
we **live** our lives.
- People will come to believe
what you and I
already know to be true.

- That Jesus has brought life and forgiveness and hope into a dark world.
(2 Timothy 1:10)

- Matthew 4:16

The people which sat in darkness
saw great light;

- and to them which sat
in the region and shadow
of death
light is sprung up.

- Jesus has risen!

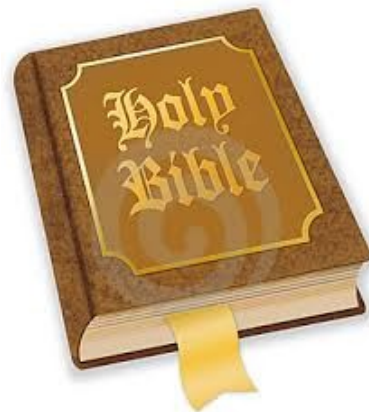
- Now

- go and tell!

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 04-28-2019 Tryon, NC