

One Who Conquered Death

Words to know:

Mary Magdalene: a follower of Jesus

Nazareth: the small town where Jesus grew up

Sabbath: the Jewish day of rest; the seventh day

God's Word: Mark 16: 1-8

¹ The Sabbath day ended. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices. They were going to apply them to Jesus' body.

² Very early on the first day of the week, they were on their way to the tomb. It was just after sunrise. ³ They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?"

⁴ Then they looked up and saw that the stone had been rolled away. The stone was very large.

⁵ They entered the tomb. As they did, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe. He was sitting on the right side. They were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. But he has risen! He is not here! See the place where they had put him. ⁷ Go! Tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him. It will be just as he told you.' "

⁸ The women were shaking and confused. They went out and ran away from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Questions:

1. How do you think the women felt as they went to the tomb?
2. How did they feel when they saw the angel?
3. What great news did the angel give them?
4. How did they respond?

Another writer in the Bible – Matthew – gives us more details related to this same story.

Matthew 28:1-15 (NIV)

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."

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

¹¹ While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ¹³ telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' ¹⁴ If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." ¹⁵ So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

Questions:

1. What additional details do we learn from Matthew about how the stone was rolled away?
2. There were Roman guards at the tomb who were also supposed to be making sure no one came and stole the body of Jesus away. What happened to them?
3. After the women leave, we also learn that Jesus Himself appears to them. What assurance did Jesus give them and how do you think this impacted them? How do you think they are feeling after speaking to Jesus?
4. What did the chief priests do when they heard the guard's report?
5. What does this story tell you about Jesus?
6. Do you think this story has any relevance for us today?

More Verses to think about:

¹⁶ "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

¹⁷ "God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world. He sent his Son to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25)