

The Importance of the Resurrection

Luke 12:1-3

For Easter I thought we could have a more theological lesson about Jesus' resurrection. Let's first study the resurrection and then discuss its importance.

Matt. 27:57-66 - ⁵⁷And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given over to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave. ⁶²Now on the next day, which is the one after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I am to rise again.' ⁶⁴"Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest the disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last deception will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

John 20:1-18 - ¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene *came early to the tomb, while it *was still dark, and *saw the stone already taken away from the tomb. ²And so she *ran and *came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and *said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³Peter therefore went forth, and the other disciple, and they were going to the tomb. ⁴And the two were running together; and the other disciple ran ahead faster than Peter, and came to the tomb first; ⁵and stooping and looking in, he *saw the linen wrappings lying there; but he did not go in. ⁶Simon Peter therefore also *came, following him, and entered the tomb; and he *beheld the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the face-cloth, which had been on His head, not lying with the linen wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb entered then also, and he saw and believed. ⁹For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰So the disciples went away again to their own homes.

¹¹But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; ¹²and she *beheld two angels in white sitting, one at the head, and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³And they *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She *said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around, and *beheld Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she *said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶Jesus *said to her, "Mary!" She *turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene *came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

Biblical Study:

There were plenty of folk wanting to prevent the resurrection. Certainly the demons, and also the Pharisees.

But they had no chance.

The reactions of Peter and John take us through the process of understanding the meaning of the resurrection.

John 20:5 – “he *saw the linen wrappings lying there” - βλέπει – see, notice

20:6 – “he *beheld the linen wrappings lying there” - θεωρεῖ – view, look at, examine, consider

20:8 – “he saw and believed” - εἶδεν – perceive, discern, understand

It is very interesting that the sequence that John and Peter followed is the same that we follow when we first hear of the resurrection, then consider it, then place our faith in it.

The Importance of the Resurrection

What are the implications of the resurrection?

A Christian distinctive: Jesus is the only resurrected major religious figure. He is the only person is history to have died, resurrected, and didn't die again.

What does this mean?

“A few month after the farewell pilgrimage, Muhammad fell ill and suffered for several days with head pain and weakness. He succumbed on Monday, June 8, 632, in the city of Medina. He is buried in his tomb (which previously was in his wife Aisha's house) which is now housed within Mosque of the Prophet in Medina.” - Wikipedia

He overcame death and the Grave. He went to Sheol and returned! He paid the price, but then overcame death to live forever.

He showed he was done, but also that he wasn't done.

He validated His claim to be the Messiah and God's Son.

Conclusion: What does the resurrection mean to you?

What is it about the resurrection that is meaningful to you today?

Is there anything there that will make a difference in your life this week?

Should there be?

It's pretty important.