

Purified By the Blood of Christ

21 March • Monday of Holy Week

Hebrews 9:11-15

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Meditation

I live, witness and minister to the natives of Sarawak, many of whom have been, or their ancestors have been offering animal sacrifices to the gods and spirits that they believe in. It appeals to them so much when this text is used in our sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Lamb of God, the blood offering for sins, guilt and purity—all these appeal to them. The One true, holy and willing sacrifice which is effective is Jesus Himself.

The Old Covenant—relation between God and man has been broken by sin. That Covenant can only be

amended by a bridge which is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

To those who had been practising the rites of sacrifices because of their consciousness of sin, guilt and damnation this Scripture is the Good News—that “**THE TRUTH**” has set them free.” (Jn 8:32).

No wonder the great number of people turning to Christ each day is increasing.

But we must not be complacent and take things for granted. The Good News must speak to each generation. How could the same text be preached afresh and make sense to the generations after the “first fruits”? Many no longer believe in the blood sacrifices nor practise them. Paul in his outburst exclaimed in 1 Corinthians 1:23-25 “but we **preach Christ crucified**: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.”

The answer is we need to be convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit. We in whatever time and generation must always be seeking God. The power of the Good News of Jesus Christ is just as strong and powerful in its appeal to us. There may not be physical bodies and blood sacrifices, but our own living sacrifice of believing in Him and offering ourselves to Him and for His service.

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but my ears you have pierced;
burnt offerings and sin offerings
you did not require (Psalm 40:6, NIV).

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and **contrite** heart,
O God, you will not despise (Psalm 51:17, NIV).

Prayer

Once, only once, and once for all,
his precious life he gave;
before the cross in faith we fall,
and own it strong to save.

“One offering, single and complete,”
with lips and hearts we say;
but what he never can repeat
he shows forth day by day.

For as the priest of Aaron’s line
within the holiest stood,
and sprinkled all the mercy shrine
with sacrificial blood;

So he, who once atonement wrought,
our Priest of endless power,
presents himself for those he bought
in that dark noontide hour.

His manhood pleads where now it lives
on heaven’s eternal throne,
and where in mystic rite he gives
its presence to his own.

And so we show thy death, O Lord,
till thou again appear,
and feel, when we approach thy board,
we have an altar here.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

Words: William Bright, 1866

Action

Be thankful and express appreciation to our heavenly Father for what Christ our Lord and Saviour has done for us. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict us for what we have willfully or unknowingly sinned against Him.

Amend our ways (in thoughts, words and deeds) to glorify God all the time.

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We Preach Christ Crucified

22 March • Tuesday of Holy Week

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Meditation

Divisiveness among Christians is a pain to the body of

Christ, a scandal to the unbelieving, and a trophy to Satan. It is a mark of those who are perishing.

The root cause of quarrels and divisions among God's people is human wisdom, which God will always destroy and thwart (1 Cor 1:19, looking back to Is 29:14). In ancient times, Israel relied on human wisdom when threatened by Assyria. In their quest for security, they turned to human wisdom, which had two related components (Is 30:1-2): pride (not trusting God for deliverance); and self-sufficiency (turning to Egypt for help). God's judgement on human wisdom with its pride and self-sufficiency was "Woe!" (Is 31:1-3).

Centuries later, commercial and materialistic Corinth seduced the people of God with worldly wisdom. In their quest for success and significance, even Christians became proud (not being contented and grateful with their identity in Christ) and self-sufficient (being self-confident in their ideas and actions). In their conceit, power and pedigree, they looked down on others in word and deed, bringing conflict and disorder to the church. Yet God turns such wisdom upside-down by choosing and calling to salvation the very people considered to be foolish, weak and nobodies!

God's answer to divisiveness, even among His own people, is the gospel of "Christ crucified." The cross of Christ, with its poverty, shame and death, calls us, His disciples, to humility and repentance. Through the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Christ, we who are being saved experience "the power of God and the wisdom of God," which is His righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Our security and significance is in Christ. He alone is our boast (1 Cor 1:31, looking back to Jer 9:23-24).

Prayer

Lord, I repent of my pride and self-sufficiency. Please forgive me for seeking security and significance through worldly wisdom. I am sorry for causing divisiveness. Renew my mind, Lord, so that my boast is in You alone, and that I can be like You, exercising steadfast love, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these You delight. In Jesus' name, amen.

Action

I shall set aside time to reflect on whether I am living by God's wisdom or the world's wisdom, in my need and quest for security and significance.

*Rev Dr Michael Shen
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I Have Set My Face Like a Flint

23 March • Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-10

- ⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- ⁶I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- ⁷But the Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
- ⁸ He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- ⁹Behold, the Lord GOD helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.
- ¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light

trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God.

Meditation

Isaiah paints for us a picture of a person who is inspired, instructed and infused by the Lord for life.

This person is **inspired** to encourage others, especially the weary. There are so many weary people amongst us, weary with the pressures and ambitions of the world. Who will bring relief to them? In Proverbs 15:23, King Solomon tells us that a timely word brings joy and delight. This timely word comes from the Lord. May we bring joy and delight to the weary amongst us.

This person is **instructed** for life i.e. how we should conduct ourselves for the Lord in the world. We all know the cliché '*be in the world but not of the world*'. Yet how many of us begin the day to intentionally be the salt that the earth needs and the light that the world requires. May we be led by the Lord in all that we do.

This person is **infused** with God's help to maintain their dignity and reputation. They know that they have done no evil so they '*set their face like a flint*' i.e. becoming stubborn in their innocence like Job. Their opponents will wear out and be no more. What a wonderful promise that God has given to those who continue to live right and keep right before Him. May we be strengthened by the Lord always.

Isaiah doesn't just paint this picture for us to follow. He also paints for us the wonder and greatness of our God. He is one who has given and will give us the tongue to

encourage. He is the one who has opened and will open our ears. He is one who has helped and will help us. He is truly the one I can trust. May we allow Him to do so.

On this Holy Week as we remember the passion of our Lord and look forward to His resurrection, may we too be reminded that of the wonder and greatness of our God. He has promised to *inspire* us, *instruct* us and *infuse* us. May we continue to yield ourselves to Him and rely upon Him for all that we need and want. And as we do so, we will be like that person who is inspired, instructed and infused by the Lord, having come out from darkness into His marvellous light.

Prayer

Almighty God, may You give us the tongue to encourage others with a timely word. May You open my ears daily to Your Word and teach me to obey what I have heard. May You help me always to live right and well before my friends and family to the glory of Your name.

Action

Do the **LOCK**:

Look for someone to encourage today and ask the Lord for a timely word for them.

Open your ears and heart to the Word today, and ask the Lord to teach you.

Check yourself for any sin that you need to confess before the Lord

Keep focus on the Lord and He will help you when you cry out to Him.

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Whose Feet Will We Wash?

24 March • Maundy Thursday

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Meditation

I wonder why Jesus didn't say: “Go and wash the feet of all nations in the world.” Jesus does say that sort of thing elsewhere (e.g. Mt 28:19 “Go and disciple all the nations”).

But not here. Here Jesus says, “Wash *one another's* feet.”

Jesus could have said, “People will know you are my disciples by the way you love *the world*.” Instead, on this last supper evening, he said: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love *one another*.” (Jn 13:35)

Some wag composed a little ditty:
“To love the whole world is no chore – my only problem is the neighbour next door!”

Loving and washing the feet of “the world” is sometimes easier than washing the feet of “one another.”

When I was sixteen, I gladly spent three hours at the May Day Church Spring Cleaning event, but was most reluctant to clean up at home. As an adult, I still struggle

with this. I make time to sort things out at the office, but keep putting off household concerns.

A manager may be wonderful at relating to the community and Board of Directors, but not so kind with fellow managers, secretary or staff whom he sees each day.

A pastor might be humble in serving church members, but not so patient at home with parents or spouse at home.

A student might sacrifice humbly her time for the Students Union, but ignore unity and love to family at home.

Humble, loving service to the world or humble, loving service to one another. Both are important, but what do you think?

Why does Jesus say, “Wash *one another’s* feet”?
Whose feet will we wash this week?

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Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach us to be humble and willing to wash, not only the feet of Your Son Jesus, but the feet of one another. Amen.

Action

Let God's Holy Spirit prompt you to think of either a family member, colleague or classmate. Perform some humble act of service for him/her this week.

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It Is Finished

25 March • Good Friday

John 19:1-42

¹Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things,²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished", and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies

would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” ³⁷And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Meditation

What does “It is finished” mean?

When a marriage comes to an end, it is finished, a divorce is at hand. When a pink slip came with your pay, it is finished; you are laid off. When the final whistle blew and the score was 0-1, it is finished, the game was lost. When you arrived at the hospital and the doctor

shook his head, it is finished, and you are just a step too late to say goodbye.

When Christ died on the cross, it is finished too. The Romans had succeeded in killing off one more revolutionary. The Jewish leaders thought that they had saved the temple and their traditions, and silenced a radical. The band of men who followed Jesus also thought it was the end of their quest and hope. It was finished.

Yet, when Rembrandt finished the Prodigal Son, there was nothing more he needed to do, it was a perfect painting. When God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. God rested after He finished the work that He had done. It was perfect.

When Jesus looked down from the cross and said, "It is finished", He acknowledged that His entire life was a personification of God's love and God's word. Nothing more is needed.

That's how God wants us to feel about our lives: It is finished. I have accomplished what God has given me to do. God has used the time entrusted to us to accomplish His will so that we can say like the apostle Paul: "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."

Good Friday is about death. But it is GOOD because without it, there's no life. Tony Campolo once said, "Yes, today is Friday and as Jesus died, He said, 'It is finished!' But that's not all, Friday is not the end, it is followed by Sunday. When we come again on Sunday, we can celebrate and rejoice. That's because Friday is the end of our sins. It is finished because God took our sins to

the grave. On Sunday, Jesus rose again and we can rise with Him.”

No matter how imperfect, no matter how sinful, no matter how many shortcomings we have, Jesus died to accomplish forgiveness for us. “It is finished.”

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love and grace towards us when You sent Your Son to the cross. On it, it is finished: we are forgiven and saved; given hope and eternal life. Thank you, Lord. For Jesus’s sake and in His name, amen.

Action

Take the time to come clean before God with your sins and seek His forgiveness.

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After Three Days, I Will Arise

26 March • Holy Saturday

Matthew 27:55-66

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead', and the last fraud will be worse than the first." ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Meditation

This passage describes the Pharisees' request for Pilate to order his soldiers to guard the tomb of the dead Jesus. They made this request because they were afraid

that Jesus' disciples would steal the body and claim that their master had risen from the dead.

Throughout the centuries, there have been many attempts by atheists to show that Christ did not rise from the dead.

Some have argued that Jesus did not really die from the crucifixion, but merely swooned. The disciples therefore saw a revived and resuscitated Jesus, not someone who had died and risen again.

This theory, however, is untenable.

Jesus was so brutally tortured and crucified that it is hard to believe that He could have survived the ordeal. Even if He did, it is difficult to believe that He could roll the stone on His own, overpower the soldiers and escape.

Then, there is the hallucination theory according to which all the post-resurrection appearances of Christ were not real but hallucinations.

The fact that the resurrected Christ appeared to different people at different times, and to 500 people at one time makes the hallucination theory equally untenable.

Finally, we have the theft theory and the classic version is found in this passage. However, it is difficult to think that the timid and bewildered disciples of Jesus could steal the body of their Lord under the noses of Pilate's trained soldiers.

All these attempts to debunk the resurrection of Christ, therefore, fail to convince. No one has succeeded in showing that the resurrection of Christ did not occur.

In fact, the empty tomb, the rolled-away stone, the failure of Christ's enemies to produce the body, the many accounts of the post-resurrection appearances of Christ, and the fact that His followers are willing to die for their faith in the resurrected Christ, all give credence to the biblical account.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ, that through His death and resurrection, we who put our faith in Him can have victory over sin and death. Amen.

Action

Thank God for the victory we have in the resurrection of Christ.

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Go and Tell

27 March • The Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-10

¹Now after the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Meditation

When we talk to people about Jesus, how much of what we say is about Him being risen and alive today? Or is our sharing confined only to what He did in the past?

There is no doubt that the substance of the gospel is dependent on factual historical events and statements of Scripture about what happened at Calvary. However, evangelism that is only based on history tends to be

factual, but without relevance. Sharing Jesus as He is presently alive makes for a powerful testimony.

The word of the angel to the women also included a sense of anticipation. They had seen evidence of the risen Lord, but not the rest of the disciples. The angel's message spoke of how those who had not yet seen Him would have an opportunity soon.

Then when the Lord met the women, He promised that He would see His brethren soon.

An opportunity to introduce Christ to a person must incorporate a sense that he or she is due for a personal encounter with Him. That must be something sooner than later. While every conversion experience will be unique to the individual, with some being deeply convicted of having met the Lord at that point, others may encounter a deeper experience only later.

When we go and tell others that we have a risen Lord in the world today, there must be evidence of that fact. One sure way is for that believer to have a meeting with the Lord, one that will assure him or her of the veracity of his or her newfound faith. It will spur the nurturing of a relationship with a Person, rather than just being an intellectual exercise.

Prayer

Lord, let me have that living relationship with You. I want a living faith with a living God so that my words will testify of how Your resurrection impacts me today. Open my spiritual eyes to see You in the mundane as well as the exceptional and supernatural. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Action

Keep a journal of your (daily) experiences with God, in the mundane and the exceptional. When you do have the opportunity to share your faith, with believers and others, see if you can relate to them your most recent moment of the reality of God in your life from that journal.

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