

When the women set out for the tomb on Sunday morning they were very sad. Their Lord Jesus had died on Friday. But when they got to the tomb, they met an angel. And the angel told them, “Jesus is not here. He has risen.” And that changed everything. It changed everything for the women. It changed everything for the disciples. And it changes everything for us. The fact that He is Risen shows us that I. Jesus solves our biggest problems, and that II. Jesus keeps every one of his promises.

First, the fact that he is risen shows us that Jesus solves our biggest problems. As the women were going to the tomb, they realized that they had a big problem. Our passage says, **“They were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance to the tomb?’” (Mark 16:2-3)** The stone was way too big and way too heavy for them to roll away. They didn’t know how they were going to solve this problem, but then they look up and saw that God had already solved this problem for them. **“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away” (16:4).** Matthew gives us a little more information. He tells us that an angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away. The women realized that they had a big problem but then they looked up and saw that God had already solved the problem for them.

Do you ever feel like the women did? Do you ever run up against a problem in your life and you think, “I don’t know how I’m going to solve this!” Jesus is risen means that there’s no problem that’s too big for him to solve. You see the angel didn’t roll the stone away to let Jesus out. No the angel rolled the stone away to show that Jesus wasn’t there anymore. The walls of the tomb were no problem for Jesus. If tomb walls are no problem for Jesus, if death is no problem for Jesus, then whatever problems we are facing are no problem for Jesus. He’ll either take them away or he’ll make them serve our eternal good.

The fact that Jesus is risen shows that he has solved our biggest problem and that problem is the problem of our sins. On Good Friday Jesus died to pay for all of our sins and the fact that he was raised from the dead shows that God the Father accepted his payment for our sins. We see that in a special way in verse 7. In verse 7 the angel says to the women, **“But go, tell his disciples and Peter.”** Why does the angel say, *“and Peter”*? Well, *“Go tell his disciples and Peter,”* means *“Go tell his disciples including Peter, especially Peter.”* Peter needed special assurance because the last time we saw Peter he denied that he even knew Jesus. In fact he swore an oath that he didn’t know Jesus. That’s a sin against the second commandment. He used God’s name to lie. In fact, he even called down curses on himself saying that he didn’t know Jesus. Peter repented of that sin, He went out and wept bitterly. And now Peter needed to be assured that Jesus had forgiven him and so the angel says, *“Go, tell his disciples and Peter”* to assure Peter that he was forgiven. Repent of your sins just like Peter did and turn in faith to Jesus. The fact that he is risen assures you that all your sins are paid for and that through faith you are forgiven just like Peter was.

The fact that “he is risen” shows us is that Jesus solves our biggest problems. And the fact that “he is risen” also shows us that Jesus keeps all of his promises. The angel says to the women: **“Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (16:6-7)** Jesus had told them that he was going to rise from the dead. And he kept his promise. He did rise from the dead. And if he kept his promise to rise from the dead, then he also going to keep all the promises that he’s made to you as well.

One of the promises that Jesus has made to us is that he will transform us so that we are fit for heaven. In our passage the women had an encounter with an angel from heaven. Our passage says, **“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.” (16:15)** It happens sometimes in Scripture that angels take a human form. And this angel took the form of a young man. This angel is wearing white robe. Many times when the Bible describes people in heaven it says

that they are wearing white robes. Mark emphasizes that the women were afraid when they encountered this angel from heaven. It says, **“they were alarmed” (16:5)**. The angel tells them **“Don’t be alarmed.”** But even after they leave the tomb, they were still afraid. It says, **“Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid” (16:8)**. Why were they afraid? The angel has just told them very good news! Why were they still afraid? Well, part of the answer is that when we human beings come into contact with someone from the heaven our natural reaction is to be afraid.

Do you remember when Jesus showed his heavenly glory on the mountain of transfiguration? Jesus’s clothes became dazzling white and his face shone like the sun. The disciples saw that and they were so frightened. It says back in Mark chapter 9 **“Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened)” (Mark 9:5-6)**. Isn’t it interesting that Peter wants to be there but he’s frightened.<sup>1</sup> Whenever human beings come into contact with heaven or someone from heaven, their first reaction is to be afraid. There’s two reasons for that: the first reason for that is because we are sinful and heaven is holy and the second reason is that we are weak and frail and heaven is overwhelmingly powerful.

But Jesus is going to transform us so that we are fit for heaven. When we are in heaven we are going to be completely without sin. Right now our sins are forgiven, but our sinful nature still clings to us. When we are in heaven, we will completely without sin.

And when Jesus raises our bodies from the dead on the last day, our bodies are not going to be frail, they are going to be powerful and heavenly. In 1 Corinthians 15 it says, **“And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man” (1 Cor 15:49)** The heavenly man is Jesus. And when Jesus returns he is going to transform our frail bodies so that they are heavenly, fit for heaven. Listen to what Paul says, **“I declare to you brothers and sisters that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God (these frail bodies that we have right now aren’t fit for heaven), nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (1 Corinthians 15:50-52)**. God is going to give us glorious and powerful resurrection bodies, fit for heaven. Just think about how powerful your body will be when God makes it fit for heaven! Your body will be so powerful and heavenly that no sickness will be able to touch you, not the common cold, not even cancer. God will crush all that under your feet when he gives you your powerful and heavenly resurrection body. Our resurrection bodies will be so powerful and glorious that you will be able to sit with angels and not be afraid.

That seems incredible, but God has promised it. And the fact that “he is risen” means that he will keep every promise that he has made to us, including the promise to give us glorious resurrection bodies. The fact that he is risen changes everything. It means that Jesus solves our biggest problems. He has taken away our sin. And it means that Jesus keeps all his promises. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> I owe this insight to Dr. Wade Johnston, professor at WLC.