

Jesus Is Risen!

How is JESUS transforming your life?

Text: Matthew 28:1-15 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **Other than Jesus**, do you know of anyone who †was alive, †died, †was dead for a couple days, and †is now alive? **No, but it's true about Jesus!**

Let's agree: There is something **very special about JESUS!** Therefore, †who He is **and** †what He has done should be transforming our lives! **How is JESUS transforming your life?**

1. **When, Who, and Why?** ¹ **Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn** [the first appearance of light in the sky] **toward the first day of the week** [Sunday], **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** [mother of James and Joseph, wife of Clopas] **came to look at the tomb.**
 - a. When did they go? Sunday, *at the crack of dawn!*
 - b. Who is mentioned? **Mary from Magdala** (on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee: *Jesus had cast seven demons out of her; Luke 8:2*). **The other Mary** was probably the *sister of Joseph*, that is, *Jesus' aunt*.
 - c. Why did they go? They believed Jesus was still dead, so they went to further prepare His body.
2. **What Is Your Kind of Fear?** ² **And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the**

stone, and sat upon it [not to let Jesus out, but so people could see that He was gone]. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook from fear of him and became like dead men. // First-century Roman guards “were elite, battle-hardened professionals, trained for maximum brutality, efficiency, and strict obedience” (AI). But when they encountered the angel, they **shook from fear!** Are **YOU** ready to meet ▶ a holy angel **or** ▶ the Almighty God? Two kinds of fear:

- a. **Unbelievers** should be *afraid, anxious, and terrified!*
Some are not because they are deceived: “I’m okay!”
- b. **Believers** show *reverence, awe, and respect!*

3. **Can God Do the Impossible?** ⁵ And the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

- a. We know how things work: **dead people stay dead!**
- b. What should convince us of the opposite?
 - i. Jesus’ tomb was secured and guarded!
 - ii. When the stone was moved, *His body was gone!*
 - iii. Many saw Jesus alive, *even 500 people!*
 - iv. Many had radically changed lives, *like Paul!*

4. **Why Would We Hold Jesus’ Feet?** ⁸ And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to report to

His disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Rejoice!” And they came up and took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him.¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go, bring word to My brothers to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.” // Why His feet?
When they saw Him, they immediately bowed their faces to the ground and were worshiping Him!

- a. Faces to the ground – *that sounds extreme!*
But who is Jesus?
 - i. **God the Son** *who created the world!*
 - ii. **God the Son** *who put on flesh to live in our place and die for our sins!*
 - iii. **God the Son** *who made the one way from this fallen world to an awesome eternity!*
- b. What does Jesus mean to you? ♦ **Is He first** in your daily life? ♦ **How much time** do you give Him each week? ♦ **Is there enough evidence** in your life to convict you of being a repentant believer?

5. **What Did the Guards Deserve?**¹¹ **Now while they were on their way, some of the men from the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened.** // According to “Roman Military Law: Falling asleep on duty (sentry duty) was a capital offense that often resulted in the death penalty” (AI), so those guards deserved death! **We do too** – *because of our sins!*

6. **Why Did They Make a False Story?**¹² **And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,¹³ and said, “You are to say, ‘His disciples came at night and stole**

Him while we were asleep.’ ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and keep you out of trouble.”

- a. Then and today, †many politicians are corrupt, †many news outlets are corrupt, and †many people are deceived.
- b. Let us never believe *anything* that *contradicts the Bible!*
- c. Let us not be like many so-called Christians today who call evil good and good evil (*Isaiah 5:20*)!

7. **What Is Money Worth to Us?** ¹⁵ And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews *and is to this day.* //

- a. Money influences almost everyone today *but let it not influence us!*
- b. Jesus said: ^{NIV} **Luke 12:15** “**Watch out!** Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Conclusion: No matter what we have done wrong, *forgiveness is available to all who repent and trust in Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, TYSM for Your willingness to endure Your cross and pay our eternal penalty! Help us to turn from every sin and live for You in every moment!

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