

Matthew 28:7-10

Why Mary Was Amazed and Went on a Mission

Main idea: We ought to be so in awe of Jesus that we share Him with all the world!

On the third day after Jesus died on the cross, a group of women, two of whom named Mary, went to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Instead of finding the body of Jesus, an angel told them that Jesus had risen!¹

Jada Hickman video

The women were now at a loss. What should they do next?

We must ask ourselves the same question: what should we do now that Jesus has risen?

Read Matthew 28:7-10

The first thing we must do when we hear that Jesus has risen is simply believe it (v. 5-6).

C.S. Lewis quote: Liar, Lunatic, Lord²

John Duncan quote³

The women could have listened to the angels and then refused to believe it.

Until we accept this truth, it will not change who we are.

We must believe that Jesus has risen!

Jada Hickman picture

And then, once we learn of the resurrection of Christ, we all have a mission: to tell others about Jesus (v. 7).

So when the women learned the news about Jesus, they were told to tell others.

So notice what the women did (v. 8).

They ran to tell the news to the disciples!

We also must run to tell others that Jesus has risen! We ought all be excited about this news!

I like the common analogy that those who are growing in Christ are on fire.⁴

Christian Theology in Plain Language quote⁵

But we have good news to be excited about!

We, like the women in this story, ought to run to share the good news!

But I want you to notice how they felt while they ran (v. 8).⁶

When we set out to tell people the news about Jesus, we may still fear.

General George Patton was once commended for his bravery during World War II.

Patton replied:⁷

Patton later wrote in his autobiography:⁸

It's one thing to have fear. It's quite another thing to allow your fears to dictate how you live.

When we set out to tell people the news about Jesus, we will also have great joy!⁹

But our greatest joy is not in anything that we do, but in Christ alone, who paid the debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.

Good Friday brings Easter Sunday illustration

Because of the resurrection, Christ can comfort and encourage us as we seek to be faithful to Him.

That's what He did for the women who were still afraid (v. 9-10).

The angel told them that they would see Jesus in Galilee, but Jesus saw their apprehension and decided to comfort them sooner, even while they were on their way to tell the disciples the news.

Know that Jesus Christ is always with you in the form of the Holy Spirit, living in you.¹⁰

Psalm 30 is a beautiful prophetic passage about the resurrection of Jesus.¹¹

Psalm 30:11

Video clip from Graves into Gardens

That's certainly what Jesus did for the women that morning.¹²

The resurrection of Jesus is good news that most people in our world have still not seriously considered.¹³

So Jesus has given all of us the same task that He gave to the women that morning (v. 16-20).¹⁴

¹ This is a situation where God upturned their plans and replaced them with much better plans. I wonder if they had a moment of disappointment- we prepared all these spices. A moment of anger- his body was stolen, we can't even do this last thing. For sure a moment of confusion. Sometimes things don't go the way we expect. We can be assured though that God is ultimately in control and he is not confused by the moments you find yourself in that don't make sense to you. I didn't expect my child to have this life-long hurdle to overcome. I was expecting to retire from that job — not get laid off.

² I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. . . . Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God. -C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

³ Christ either [1] deceived mankind by conscious fraud, or [2] He was Himself deluded and self-deceived, or [3] He was Divine. There is no getting out of this trilemma. It is inexorable. -John Duncan, *Colloquia Peripatetica*

⁴ Everyone knows when a fire is burning. Fires spread. Once a fire stops spreading, it stops burning. It grows smaller and smaller until it eventually goes out. We're much the same way. When we're growing in our faith, we will inevitably share our faith. But when we stop sharing our faith, our faith becomes smaller and smaller until our light no longer shines before men.

⁵ It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as a fire that does not burn is a contradiction. -Christian Theology in Plain Language

⁶ They still had a bit of fear about this whole situation. But it also says they had great joy.

⁷ "Sir, I am not a brave man. The truth is, I am an utter craven coward. I have never been within the sound of gunshot or in sight of battle in my whole life that I wasn't so scared that I had sweat in the palms of my hands." -General Patton

⁸ "I learned very early in my life never to take counsel of my fears." -General Patton

⁹ Telling others the good news about Jesus gives us great joy! Seeing others believe the gospel because of our witness gives us great joy! Serving God brings us great joy!

¹⁰ When you fear, when you rejoice, when you're scared, and when you're happy. And because Christ is always with you, you will always have the strength to obey Him.

¹¹ I love how it describes the emotions we feel in thinking about the resurrection.

¹² They approached the tomb full of sorrow that their friend had died. But they ran from there full of joy with great news: Jesus is alive!

¹³ The news about Jesus is not to be hoarded. The women were to pass this news of Jesus on to others!

¹⁴ We're not to keep it a secret. We're to embrace the gospel ourselves and tell it to the world: Jesus is alive!