

Rev. Derek Fairman

Easter Sunday

We celebrate the great mystery of the Lord's Resurrection. We celebrate the Lord Jesus rising from the dead. As we come to this celebration, we call to mind the faith that brings us here. The Lord Jesus' Resurrection began a new creation, a creation without death and decay, without evil and sin. The Lord's Resurrection was just the beginning of a new life. We inherit that new life in Baptism, but there is much more.

We remember that the Lord Jesus was buried in a new tomb in a garden nearby the place where He was crucified. As I mentioned on Good Friday, there is a lot of significance concerning the garden: how in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were confronted with temptation, and that they gave into that temptation and disobeyed God. The Lord Jesus confronted evil when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Perhaps His death seemed like a defeat. It seemed that He was not able to overcome His enemies. Yet in the garden where His tomb was, He did what Adam and Eve did not: He triumphed over death and sin and all evil. His death was not a defeat, but a victory for us. He brought about redemption for our sins. He won all graces for us on the Cross. Yet that victory was only the beginning. He also overcame death itself by His Resurrection.

As I mentioned on Good Friday, there are moments in our lives in which we too have to confront some evil. We must undergo our own temptations. We must choose to do what is right and to obey God. There are those moments in which temptation enters into our lives. Maybe doubts enter our minds. We have to face temptation and overcome the evil that wants to enter into our lives and wants to cling to us. We have times when we must undergo a test.

However, the Risen Lord comes to us. When we undergo this test, we seek Him. We seek His help. From the depths of our hearts, we want to find Him, so that He can help us. We might be afraid, but we know that we need the Lord Jesus. We might then imagine what it was like for Mary Magdalene and the women who went to the tomb.

For those who went to the tomb and found it empty, their lives were never the same. They came to believe in the Lord Jesus, and they put their faith in His Resurrection. They began a new life, and the world was recreated. For those who would see the Lord Jesus after His Resurrection, their lives would never be the same either. For all those who have received the joyful news that the Lord is risen, our lives are not the same.

The Lord Jesus is Risen! The Lord Jesus brings the victory of His Resurrection to those times and places where we have failed. The Lord Jesus brings the joy of His Resurrection to the pain that we experience. The Lord Jesus brings the light of His Resurrection to the darkness that can surround us. The Lord Jesus brings the glory of His Resurrection to our lives.

Maybe we are like the women who went to the tomb. We are searching for the Lord Jesus. We are looking for Him in hope. Perhaps we know why we are looking for Him, maybe we do not. However, we must have the faith that our searching is not in vain. We do not want to fail, and so from the depths of our hearts, we cry out to the Lord, with faith that He hears us and that He will answer us.

As we come to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, we ask ourselves: what are we looking for? Do we have the faith and hope to know that the Lord will help us to find what we are looking for? The Risen Lord will be with us, during those times when we must confront sin and death and evil. The Risen Lord will help us to turn to Him to find Him and to share in His victory. The Lord will turn our losses into victories by the power of His Resurrection.

We also think about our lives, and what the Lord can change in our lives. What parts of our lives do we want to be made new? Only the Lord Jesus can answer those questions, and so we ask the Lord to guide us. The Lord does not want our lives to be filled with darkness, and the Lord Jesus does not want us to fail. The Lord Jesus will lead us to Himself, and if our hearts are open to faith, we will be able to share in the Lord's victory.