

**“Rejoice, Jesus is Risen”**  
**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**  
**Berean Baptist Church**  
**Pastor Skylar E. Bernick**

**INTRODUCTION**

Each gospel focuses on different details about resurrection morning, but all four are careful to say that Mary Magdalene leads a group of women who came to Jesus' grave just before sunrise.

Who was this Mary? Mary was possessed by seven demons, but Jesus delivered her. After that, she faithfully followed Jesus (Luke 8:1-3). She was even with Jesus' mother during the crucifixion and carefully noted where He was buried (Matt 27:55-56). We really don't know much more than that, she obviously had a history of sin, but the Gospels are most clear about the most important things: Jesus saved Mary from the grip of hell, and so she followed Him.

After the crucifixion and death of Jesus, you would expect Mary and these other women to be hiding, laying low, like the other disciples. But they did not, Mary did something crazy, she went to the tomb. What made Mary Magdalene different? Love. Her Love led to joy and sharing Jesus' resurrection.

***You must love Christ as your risen Savior, rejoice in his power over death, and live His resurrection!***

**Matthew 28:1, Love in the Hour of Darkness**

**Vs 1** Jesus taught that great love is a mark of great forgiveness, and he may have been talking specifically about this Mary. Mary's love is radical. At this moment where it looks like all is lost, and the darkness has claimed the world's only hope, Mary chooses to rise early and show love.

Would people know that you are forgiven by the love that you show? Love takes great courage. These pre-dawn hours were the time of the power of darkness. All seemed to be lost, but in the laughing face of death, in the gloating face of hell, these women rise, go out into the darkness, and love. Love is sacrificial, we don't mean romantic love, or even friendly affection, we mean a desire to sacrifice for the good of the other.

If Mary could have this radical, brave love not knowing that Jesus is risen, how much more should we love?

*Live the brave, sacrificial love of Mary. Because Jesus is risen.*

**Matthew 28:2-7, Behold the Light, the Broken Grave, and Fear Not!**

**Vs 2** "Behold!" Commands us, you, and I, to feel the awe and splendor of this moment – behold! A great earthquake, the stone is rolled away, and an angel sits upon it in victory. What is happening?

**Vs 3** Looking at the angel was like looking at lightning, the color of his garments was like the color of snow reflecting the sun – so bright that it hurt to look at.

**Vs 4** The guards are so shaken (Matthew uses this same word to describe the earthquake that happened when Jesus died in 27:51) by the glory of heaven that they become like dead men. The earthquake probably startled them, the stone rolling away would have been shocking, but they were afraid of the angel!

**Vs 5** The way the angel says “fear not” emphasizes that he is talking to the woman and only the woman. Everyone is scared, but the angel turns only to the woman and says, “fear not”. He speaks of Jesus crucifixion as something that is over and done with – Jesus *was* crucified. *But now He is risen!*

**Vs 6** This is why we say, “He is risen”. This is why the tomb was broken, the stone was cast aside, and a messenger of heaven sat upon it in victory, He is risen. Now the angel invites the woman to “come! see!”

**Vs 7** This command again is only spoken to the woman, they are to go and tell the disciples. We have another "Behold!" This is the third time they are told to look, this time not in the tomb but to the promises being fulfilled. There is more to come!

Look at how much has changed in just a few moments, darkness has been rolled away, the Son has RISEN, defeat has been turned into victory, so the angel says, "fear not". Do you live the life of this resurrection, this victory, or is your life darkened by sin?

*Behold Jesus is RISEN! You must find your life in His resurrection or you will find no life at all.*

### **Matthew 28:8-10, Behold Jesus, Rejoice, Fear Not, Go and Tell!**

**Vs 8** They were still afraid, and we can understand why. But they are at least doing something.

**Vs 9** Now another “Behold!” demands that we see what happened next!

“**all hail**” - this was a common term for a respectful and joyful meeting, but much more than this, it also means "rejoice!" and it's very closely related to the word for "grace". Half the time it's used in the bible it means "rejoice!" or "be glad!" and if there was ever a time for this word's fullest meaning, it is now.

With a word Jesus greets them and calls them to joy and gladness! Coming to him and holding him, Mary and her friends worshiped him.

If you trust Christ, you will have this experience...

but you can know this joy even now, whatever happens, in any hardship you have every reason for confident hope knowing that He is RISEN and overcome death for us.

*You must receive Jesus and the joy of His resurrection.*

**Vs 10** “just then”, this moment did not last long. Jesus immediately gives them work to do, they must tell the disciples. Why? Because Jesus died to save them, he cares for them, they are his “brothers”, and so they must know the good news. Likewise, if we are to live the resurrection, we must tell others that he lives. How many are living in dark despair? How many believe they have no hope?

*We must tell others!*

#### CONCLUSION

All the events of our text seem to have happened so quickly, maybe in the space of 15 minutes. These women brave in love, but without a hope in the world that saw night turned to day, they saw hell robbed of its prize, conversed with angels from heaven, and seen their Risen Savior. They had every reason to rejoice, and so it is with us!

Love Him bravely, most of all in the darkest hours, and you will be rewarded

Know that He is RISEN, your sin debt is paid, trust Jesus with all your heart and fear not

Receive Christ's grace and joy, and go and tell others

***You must love Christ as your risen Savior, rejoice in his power over death, and live His resurrection!***