

Resurrection Sunday

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“A week ago, Christ stood in front of the tomb of Lazarus in Bethany, which was near Jerusalem. The two tombs’ features are similar.

The tomb of Lazarus was a cave, and a huge stone was at its door. The stone they placed on the door of the tomb weighed more than two tonnes. Lazarus had a sister named Mary. Mary was a worshiper of Jesus; she was a disciple at Jesus's feet.

Jesus said to Mary and Martha, ‘There is no problem.’ They said that he had died and, ‘if You had been here, he would not have died.’ But now, “by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.”¹ The smell of the grave had become so bad; the problem had no solution. It means death is the end, and at the end there are no second chances.

He said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life.”² Martha speaks a lot, but Mary speaks little and worships a lot. He said to her, ‘What is the problem? I am the resurrection’, and, “Your brother will rise again.”³ She said to Him, ‘I know there is something called resurrection at the last day.’

The holy apostles, especially Peter and John, were present (at Lazarus’s tomb) and, “Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’”⁴ They lifted the stone together because it was heavy. So, the 12 apostles moved the stone together. And Jesus called Lazarus who was in the tomb and said, “Lazarus, come forth!”⁵ So Lazarus came out of the tomb. All the people who were there saw “he who had died came out,”⁶ and the whole world turned upside down.

Today, the second picture is of Christ himself, who also died and was placed in a tomb like that of Lazarus, and they placed the stone, also sealing it with seals.

When Christ was standing at the tomb of Lazarus, He said to Mary, ‘Have faith.’ He said to her, “if you would believe you would see the glory of God,”⁷ and, “Your brother rise again.”

Jesus Christ died! Can anyone believe that? He who raised the dead with a word? He said to Lazarus, “Come forth!” and he went out. And Jesus said to Mary the sister of Lazarus, ‘have faith.’

¹ John 11:39

² John 11:25

³ John 11:23

⁴ John 11:39

⁵ John 11:43

⁶ John 11:44

⁷ John 11:40

As for Saint Mary, the mother of Jesus, we did not hear any comment from her about the death of her Son, because she believed. “Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”⁸

On this day, we find the holy apostles scattered, and the Marys ran early in the morning while it was still dark and went to the tomb. But the Bible did not mention that the Virgin Mary went anywhere; why? Because she knows Him. This is real faith that surpassed humanity, the faith that was placed in the heart of our mother the Virgin Mary. The last time Saint Mary is mentioned is when Christ was placed in the tomb. Even when she was standing at the foot of the cross, she didn’t speak.

Jesus said to Mary the sister of Lazarus, ‘if you would believe,’ but the Virgin Mary, who is full of faith, knows He is the resurrection.

It is amazing that Christ wept while raising Lazarus, and when He rose from the dead, He said to Mary Magdalene, “why are you weeping?”⁹

When Lazarus was raised, He wept, but upon His resurrection, He said no one should weep because, “This is the day the Lord has made.”¹⁰

The Virgin Mary was the only one who had faith in Christ's resurrection from the dead.

What about the holy apostles? Christ, glory be to Him, did not leave them in the dark, because He explained this matter to them many times. He told them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered to the Gentiles.’ He mentioned the details of His suffering. He said to them, ‘I will be mocked, insulted, and spat upon. They will scourge Me and kill Me. And on the third day I will rise again.’ He repeated this many times, and when what Christ had said was fulfilled—that He suffered, was crucified, and rose again—the words of Christ disappeared from the minds of the disciples.

When He told them He would rise after three days, it means, ‘I will not rot like Lazarus, for I have the power, because I am the resurrection.’

Do not think that when He resurrected Lazarus, the Lord Christ took the soul of Lazarus from hell and clothed it in a body, knowing the body of Lazarus had decomposed in the grave. Christ called out to the corrupt body and created a new body for him. ‘The Lord can do everything, that no purpose of His can be withheld from Him.’¹¹ He was able to resurrect the body whose members had all corrupted.

Is it possible for Him to raise Himself from the dead? Certainly. And He repeated to His disciples, saying to them, ‘On the third day, I will rise again,’ and, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be.”¹²

⁸ Luke 1:45

⁹ John 20:15

¹⁰ Psalms 118:24

¹¹ Job 42:2

¹² Matthew 12:40

The tomb would host Christ, but His body would not see corruption because He is holy. Corruption is linked to sin, but Christ, the holy of holies, was the body of the Son, the Word. Indeed, the soul had left the body, but the body was united with His divinity and did not see corruption.

When this thought was absent from the minds of the holy apostles, the Marys, and Mary Magdalene, the fact He had told them He would rise again on the third day was removed from their thoughts. So they asked for the dead body of Jesus.

It is a shameful thing that they rose early at dawn with spices. This is what happens when the idea of resurrection disappears, and we forget the words of Christ.

This is our daily lives when we forget the Bible, God's promises, God's commandments, and the words He said. I feel confused. But if I remember God's words, then there is no problem.

When the Marys forgot our Lord's words while they were going to the tomb of Christ (even though they were standing at the tomb of Lazarus and saw the miracle), they forgot Christ is able to rise from the dead; and they said, 'Who will be able to lift this two-tonne stone?'

Does this problem exist? Yes; if the idea of resurrection is absent, this problem will exist.

Who can lift the stone that is greater than my stature and intellect—the calamities that come, the problems that are greater than me, and the needs that incapacitate me? Man remains trapped in this thought and says, 'Who will remove the stone from me?' But when I have the thought of Christ's resurrection, I find the stone has been rolled away, as if it were a small pebble.

With the resurrection of Christ, do we really have a problem rolling away the stone? Is there any problem stronger than you that He can't handle? Instead I say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."¹³ Couldn't He who raised Lazarus roll away the stone?

Why do we feel all paths are blocked? Because the resurrection is not in us.

Mary Magdalene ran to Peter and John and said to them, 'I went and found the tomb open, but I did not find the body.' The problem was confined to the missing body, and she did not think of the resurrection.

John ran with her, and Peter followed him, and he saw the things in the tomb, and went on wondering because the thought of the resurrection was not in his mind, even though on the day of the transfiguration (when Christ was with Moses and Elijah talking about the cross and the resurrection) He said to the apostles Peter, James, and John as they came down from the mountain, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."¹⁴ They asked one another what He meant by resurrection from the dead.

If a person lived without the thought of the resurrection, their entire life would be full of confusion, tears, and sadness. The Bible says that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb more than once, and she

¹³ Philippians 4:13

¹⁴ Matthew 17:9

could not see because she was weeping so much. Even when Christ appeared to her, she did not see Him. Why? Because the thought of the resurrection was absent from her mind.

And then Jesus found two of His disciples walking in a state of distress and frowning. He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"¹⁵ They answered Him, 'There was someone mighty in deed and word before God and all the people; we were hoping it was He who was going to redeem us. But unfortunately, He died.' He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart."¹⁶ If the thought of resurrection is absent, a person will remain concerned with problems and hardships, but as soon as the resurrection shines in them, the stone becomes nothing.

Peter, who was perplexed, trampled death. When they arrested him in Rome and sentenced him to death, he asked them to crucify him upside down. This is a person who defied death because he trampled death.

When the resurrection dwells in the heart, it fills it with courage, strength, light, and joy. You are the sons of the resurrection. Do not let the thought of the resurrection escape you.

If the thought of the resurrection is absent, problems will multiply; the tomb is closed, the stone is heavy; Christ cannot be found; they took my Master from the tomb. All of those words you just heard are a result of the absence of the thought of the resurrection.

Of course, there are many things like this in our lives, and a person remains confused and lost and says, 'I am tired and cannot find God.' You are looking for Him while He is standing beside you.

The resurrection is the personal presence of Christ in your life every second, risen and conquering.

Why are we defeated even though Christ is conquering? It is written in the book of Revelation, "He went out conquering, and to conquer."¹⁷ He conquers death, which St. Paul identified as, "the last enemy."¹⁸

If a Christian person lives in defeat, they are not enjoying the resurrection. If they have the blessing of the resurrection within them, they will not be defeated.

"We were buried with Him through baptism into death,"¹⁹ and were resurrected. If a person lives the blessing of their baptism, they will not be overcome by problems, desires, or demons, because Christ who conquered death is with them.

The tomb of Christ is not like the tomb of Lazarus. It is a new tomb in which no one was ever placed. This tomb hosted Christ for 36 hours, so everything connected with a tomb is eliminated from this tomb.

¹⁵ Luke 24:17

¹⁶ Luke 24:25

¹⁷ Revelation 6:2

¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:26

¹⁹ Romans 6:4

People began to visit this grave through the generations. As for us, we are like Lazarus; and God, who raised Lazarus, will raise us up. Even if our body dies, He will still raise us up. We must rise from the dead. Death will come to the body, but our souls are connected to the risen Christ.

We will not die because Christ says to everyone, "I am the resurrection."²⁰ 'If he dies, he will live.' Tell Him, 'Lord, I will never forget Your resurrection. When they forgot Your resurrection, they were confused, but I owe it to You to live the resurrection each day.'

Through Holy Communion, we receive the risen body of Christ, Who overcomes sin.

Don't be afraid of Satan or sin as long as you live in the resurrection; enjoy it, and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead. The praises of the resurrection are pleasing to the soul.

May Christ allow us all to rejoice in the resurrection as we thank Him for saving us from eternal death."

²⁰ John 11:25