

Date: 12.04.2020

Time: 11am

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Psalm: Psalm 16:8-11

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Outline:

- a) Introduction
 - 1. Understandable reactions
 - 2. Prophesied event
 - 3. Historical fact
 - 4. Church message

- **Introduction**

In the Free Church, we haven't celebrated Easter as other churches do, because every Sunday we are celebrating that He's alive and risen from the dead. But it is good for us to consider the resurrection at this time.

Some churches might focus on Jesus dying for our sin. Some might focus on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead to give us life. But we can't have one without the other – we need to remember Jesus' death and resurrection. The resurrection was crucial in saving us and we need to give it its place.

We're losing a lot of comfort by neglecting the resurrection. Just now, on the news, we're bombarded with the idea of death. The older we get, the more challenged we are by the idea of death. But the resurrection is the most powerful comfort in the face of the reality of death.

1) Understandable reactions

Perplexed: In verse 4, we see the women perplexed at the sight of the empty tomb.

Unbelief: In verse 11, we see the disciple's' reaction of unbelief to the women's report. They responded with unbelief even though they'd seen Jesus performing so many miracles and saw Him even raising Lazarus from the dead.

Marvel: Peter ran to see an empty tomb and in verse 12, we see that his response was that he marvelled. He was excited. He rejoiced.

What is our reaction to the resurrection of Jesus? Do we respond with perplexity and confusion, or with unbelief, or with great joy?

What unspeakable joy the disciples would have felt when they saw Jesus again. What wonder! What excitement! What delight! Their best friend was alive and death had been defeated.

Pray that we will have a sense of marvel, and that we will be able to grasp the reality of the resurrection. We need the resurrection and we need to understand that Jesus has defeated death once and for all.

2) Prophesied event

The words of the angels: The words of praise and rejoicing that shepherds had heard when Jesus was born were prophesying who this was who had been born.

The words of the Old Testament: The Old Testament spoke about the Messiah that was to come who would defeat sin and death. This Messiah prophesied is the One who would be raised on the third day. What encouragement Psalm 16 would have given to Jesus as He read it and heard it in the synagogue.

The words of Jesus: Jesus had prophesied His own death and resurrection. He used the sign of Jonah and the image of the temple being destroyed and built again as images prophesying His resurrection. The disciples should have remembered what they had heard and learned, but they struggled to interpret what they were hearing (John 20:9).

3) Historical fact

The resurrection of Jesus cannot be proved in a lab, but it can be proved historically. There are 3 evidences of this historical truth in this portion of scripture.

The empty tomb: The tomb was empty. The enemies of Jesus could not disprove this. It was and is formidable evidence.

The witness of the women: The first witnesses of the resurrection were women. At that time, the witness of women had no value. But Jesus decided to reveal the resurrection to women first. It was the truth of the resurrection these women were sharing – truth that was surprising, and revealed in a way that might have been strange at the time. But this was truth that could not be hidden.

The linen cloths: The linen cloths were left behind. Jesus' risen body was not limited physically – he could pass through walls and pass through linen cloths. When Lazarus was raised from the dead, he came from the tomb wrapped in linen clothes. Peter marvelled at what he saw as he knew that there was no way a human man could do this. There was no body in the cloths anymore.

4) Church message

The resurrection became the heart of the message shared and proclaimed.

The disciples now understood and were able to preach and proclaim Jesus' death and resurrection.

The resurrection's place is central to the gospel. It should not be preached just once a year. It is the gospel's core and our hope for deliverance.