



## **Sharing Love...Living Christ**

July 2018

Hello, Beloved!

Have you ever received an assignment from the Lord and were so full of faith that you were just waiting for the Lord to release you to fulfill it? You were ready! You were on go! It was not until the Lord released you and you were already on your way that you began to realize what obstacles you would face. Maybe thoughts like, “*How am I going to get the supplies I need?*” or “*Who is going to help me accomplish this?*” or “*Where are the resources going to come from?*” creep in. Well, there were some ladies in the Bible who experienced the very same thing. Join me in Mark 16:

### **Mark 16:1-8**

|   | King James Version<br>(KJV)  | Classic Amplified Version<br>(AMPC)   | The Passion Translation<br>(TPT)   |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | And when the sabbath was passed, Mary Magdelene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, and bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint Him. | And when the Sabbath was passed [that is, after the sun had set], Mary Magdelene, and Mary [the mother] of James, and Salome purchased sweet-smelling spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus’ body]. | On the first day of the week, as the Sabbath was ending, Mary Magdelene, Mary the mother of Jacob, and Salome made their way to the tomb. It was very early in the morning as the first streaks of light were beginning to be seen in the sky. They had purchased aromatic embalming spices that they might anoint His body. |
| 2 | And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.  | And very early on the first day of the week they came to the tomb; [by then] the sun had risen.   |  |
| 3 | And they said among themselves, <b><i>Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?</i></b>   | And they said one to another, <b><i>Who will roll back the stone for us out of [the groove across the floor at] the door of the tomb?</i></b>   | And they had been asking one another, <b><i>“Who can roll away the heavy stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”</i></b>  |

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|---|---|--|---|
| 4 | And when they <u>looked</u> , <b>they saw that the stone was rolled away</b> : for it was very great.   | And when they <u>looked up</u> , <b>they [distinctly] saw that the stone was already rolled back</b> , for it was very large.  | But when they arrived, <b>they discovered that the very large stone that had sealed the tomb was already rolled away!</b>   |
| 5 | And <b>entering into</b> the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.            | And <b>going into</b> the tomb, they saw a young man sitting [there] on the right [side], clothed in a [long, stately, sweeping] robe of white, and they were utterly amazed and struck with terror. | And as they <b>stepped into</b> the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right, dressed in a long white robe. The women were startled and amazed.  |
| 6 | And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, Which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him. | And he said to them, Do not be amazed and terrified; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.                      | But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid. I know that you’re looking here for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here – He has risen victoriously! Look! See the place where they laid Him. |
| 7 | <u>But go your way</u> , tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.                     | <u>But be going</u> ; tell the disciples and Peter, He goes before you into Galilee; you will see Him there [just] as He told you.   | <u>Run</u> and tell His disciples, even Peter, that He is risen. He has gone ahead of you into Galilee and you will see Him there, just like He told you.   |
| 8 | <u>And they went out quickly</u> , and fled from the sepulchre; <b>for they trembled and were amazed...</b>   | <u>Then they went out</u> [and] fled from the tomb, <b>for trembling and bewilderment and consternation had seized them...</b>   | They staggered out of the tomb, <b>awestruck, with their minds swirling...</b>  |

In this text, Jesus had just been crucified two days ago – the day before the Sabbath. Unable to anoint Jesus’ body on the Sabbath due to religious laws, Mary Magdelene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome left their homes the next day at the very first opportunity to go anoint Jesus’ body. The sun hadn’t even come up yet!

There are six things I want to emphasize in this passage to stir your faith, increase your confidence, and spur you forward in the things God has for you.

1. The ladies were embarking upon their mission to anoint Jesus’ body. They had done everything they could to wait until the Sabbath Day passed to be able to go tend to their Jesus. And now that their time had come, they set out with no hesitation. It was not until

they were already on their way that they began to consider the obstacle they would face and to wonder how they would overcome it:

*“Who can roll away the heavy stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”* (v3)

2. Notice that considering the obstacle did not deter these ladies from their mission. They continued on their way to the tomb. We know this because we read **but when they arrived...** (v.4, TPT). The King James Version says **when they looked**; the Amplified Classic says **when they looked up**.

The Greek word translated “looked” is *anablepo*, and it means *to look up, to see, to receive sight*. The implication is that we change our perspective so we are able to see more deeply into a matter than just what is on the surface. Despite knowing obstacles were present, the ladies continued on their mission. When they got to where they were going...when they got to the place they were supposed to be...when they were in position – they received sight – they received a change in perspective - to see that **the stone was rolled away** (v.4, KJV).

You may be thinking, “*Um, it doesn’t take much to see when a big stone that was covering an entrance has been moved away. Why would they need a change in perspective?*” Sometimes we can have our mind so set on a thing that we cannot see what is right in front of us. I remember when I was a little girl, Dad drove the Sunday School van every Sunday. When he pulled up to this one family’s house, it was my job to go knock on the door to tell them we were there and then to go across the street to tell another family.

One particular Sunday as I started to go across the street, my dad called me back and told me to get in the van. I didn’t understand. When I got in, he told me to look behind me. (I was sitting in the front seat.) I looked. I still didn’t understand. He told me to look again. I looked. I still didn’t understand. He finally pointed out that the person I was going across the street to get was already in the van. I was so set on going across the street (or I could say, I was so set in my ways) that my perspective did not change to see that the person I was going to get was right before my eyes.

That was not the case with the ladies in our text. Though they expected the stone to be in front of the sepulchre when they got there (the same way I expected that I would need to go across the street), when they arrived, they **distinctly saw** (v. 4, AMPC) that the stone – the obstacle – had already been moved away.

3. In verse 5, we see not only did the ladies arrive at the place where they were supposed to be, but they also entered into what they were supposed to enter into. The King James version says, “**and entering into the sepulchre**”; the Amplified Classic says, “**and going into the tomb**”. My favorite is The Passion Translation, which says “**as they stepped into the tomb**”.

Getting to the place where God has called us to be is only the beginning. Once we get to that place, it is time for us to **step into** that which He has called us.

4. When Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome stepped into the tomb, they were in position to receive their next assignment. They were in position to hear the current state of events from Heaven's perspective. They were in position to renew their mind to the Godly truth and to let go of the earthly facts.

When they stepped in, they received a message from an angel: *You're looking here for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified* [earthly fact]. *He isn't here – He has risen victoriously* [Godly truth]! *Look! See the place where they laid Him.* [Renew your mind] (v.6, TPT, comments added).

Not only did they receive a message from the angel, but they also received their marching orders:

- ***But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter...*** (KJV)
- ***But be going; tell the disciples and Peter...*** (AMPC)
- ***Run and tell His disciples, even Peter...*** (TPT)

It is not until we step into that which God has already given us to step into that we will learn what we are supposed to do next. If we always wait to get the whole picture before we move, we will disqualify ourselves many times from being used in the manner which God desires to use us. The just shall live by faith (Rom. 1:17). We walk by faith and not by sight (II Cor. 5:7).

5. The ladies acted in obedience. In verse 8 of the King James Version, we see “***And they went out quickly...***”
6. The ladies didn't necessarily have it all together when they embarked on their next assignment. Notice later in verse 8 we see “***for they trembled and were amazed...***” (KJV). I looked up the words “trembled” and “amazed” in the Greek. Let me paraphrase: “*for they were scared and ecstatic at the same time.*”

I am reminded of Joyce Meyer when she says there are some things God asks us to do and we just have to “do it afraid.” Don't get me wrong. We know that God did not give us the spirit of fear (II Tim. 1:7) and that fear has no place in us. However, that does not mean fear will not try to enter in or that fear is non-existent. I understand Joyce to say, “Do it even when you feel fear present. Don't succumb to the fear. Overcome it.”

When we feel ourselves experiencing fear, we are to guard against it by:

1. Taking a stand that we will not fear. Declare by faith, “***NO FEAR HERE.***”
2. Meditating on the love of God, which is the antidote for fear: *Perfect love casteth out fear* (I John 4:18).

Do not feel condemned if you experience feelings of fear when God asks you to do

something. Rather, operate in your position and identity of the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:21) knowing that you have been made right with God and that righteous is who you are.

Operate in your position and identity of God's beloved in whom He is well pleased knowing that loved is who you are (Jn 17:23, Mark 1:11). God loves you as much as He ever has and ever will. Because of His love for you, He never intended for you to experience the torment that fear brings. Submit yourself to God's love for you. Resist fear (the devil) in the power of God's love for you and it (fear/the devil) will flee (James 4:7).

I am so encouraged by the Lord and excited about the things that He wants to do through each of your lives! I believe this Word was meant for such a time as this. May you be encouraged to move forward in the things God has for you.

Loving you with the love of the Lord,

*Katherine*

P.S....

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