

20250420 Jesus Our Victor, Hope and Joy – Ps David

Mark 15:37~ Mark 16:7; Matthew 28:8-10, 18-20

Illustration of Lenin's Tomb.

Vladimir Lenin **died on 21st January 1924**. It was a long queue to visit the tomb even 50 years after his death; his body is still there but now there is no queue. But somewhere else in the world, there is still a long queue today to visit the tomb, not to see what is inside of the tomb but what is not inside, because the person inside was resurrected on the third day.

Today I would like to share verses from Mark 15, Mark 16 and Matthew 28 about how we can have hope in Jesus.

1. When all hope is gone (Mark 15:37-47)

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,^[a] he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph,^[a] and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Verse 37 says Jesus breathed his last. Jesus is dead. In fact, Jesus breathed his last so we could breathe our first breath of life.

Jesus was crucified. The Pharisees and leaders of the Jews had finally accomplished what they always wanted, they got rid of Jesus who dared to challenge their tradition and law. For the disciples of Jesus, their hope of restoring the kingdom of Israel was gone. For those who were followers of Jesus, their hope of a leader who preached and lived out love and kindness, who defended the weak, the sinners, and despised, who

performed miracles by healing the sick, cast out demons and who did not bow to the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders is now dead. Jesus' death did not just affect the common people but even the governing level of the nation. This was represented by a man called Joseph.

Mark 15:43

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, **who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God**, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Who was Joseph?

According to **Luke 23:50-51** ⁵⁰Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, ⁵¹**who had not consented to their decision and action**. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

Firstly, Joseph was not in agreement with the rest of the council to crucify Jesus. No doubt he believed Jesus in some way, that is why he did not go with the rest of the Council.

Secondly, he was waiting for the kingdom of God. In the Jewish context, the "Kingdom of God" refers to a future era of peace, justice, and God's rule, characterized by the restoration of Israel and the gathering of all nations to the worship of the One God, often associated with the coming of the Messiah. While some interpretations focus on a physical kingdom, others view the "Kingdom of God" as a spiritual reality, a time of God's reign in the hearts and lives of those who follow His ways. The phrase "Kingdom of Heaven" is a common Jewish way of referring to the "reign of God," and is often used interchangeably with "Kingdom of God".

So, in the spiritual context, the hope of salvation is gone, Jesus was supposed to come and defeat the kingdom of Satan and establish God's kingdom, but the Messiah is dead.

Mark 15:44-45

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

The scripture here tells us that Jesus was really dead, not just seemingly dead, not what some claim that Jesus had only fainted, but was really dead.

The people's hope and their security were buried with Jesus. In fact, Jesus was not just buried, in **Matthew 27:62-66 it says...**

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver

said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

The leaders made sure it would stay that way, in case the disciples would steal Jesus' body and claim that he had risen from the dead. They made sure whether in physical body or by word of mouth, the resurrection of Jesus would not happen. In fact, I believe Satan used the physical nature of this world, to make sure Jesus would not be resurrected. They did all that they could to make sure Jesus would stay dead and buried.

When people see death, that is the end. When someone is dead, he or she is dead, nothing will change.

Is your life in a similar situation as this? You might be in a situation where your dream or your plan has died or dying. It might be your dream of a good marriage, or a good parental relationship with your children, a dream to live in NZ or a good job, a dream of a healthy body, or living a long, good life.

Your plan, your opportunity, your dreams are gone. There are times when you feel you can't carry on or don't know how to face your difficulties.

But this is not the end of the story for Jesus and the world. This is not the end of your story either.

2. Look at the resurrected Christ (Mark 16:1-7)

Mark 16:1-2 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb.

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb. Why?

Luke 23:55- Luke 24:1 ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. **But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.**

They didn't have time to embalm Jesus' body on the day He was crucified, it was getting late, because from that evening to the next day's evening was the sabbath. So, it is not

because they were irresponsible but because they followed the law of Moses, God's law.

The law was for the benefit of the people but sometimes it could seem to be a hindrance, but they obeyed, and because of their obedience there was that glorious encounter with Jesus on the third day. This fulfilled the scripture on Hosea 6:1-3 where the Jewish scholars see this as prophetic scripture of the Messiah.

Notice the perfumes here, remember when Mary broke the Alabaster jar for Jesus at their house, Jesus mentioned the perfume, and how it was for his burial. God used what Mary had broken and gave it to Jesus as a prophetic proclamation for his death. Her giving was meant to be. Could it be that our giving to God is meant to be, which becomes part of his eternal plan?

In verse 1 it says, "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body." The women were going to the tomb to embalm Jesus' body, they were still living in their reality, which is Jesus is dead.

I know for some of your relationship problems are very difficult and real. You may have experienced the reality of painful loss and are feeling the pain of brokenness and hardship. I don't doubt those pains and hardships."

Mark 16:3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

The stone that was blocking the entrance of the tomb where Jesus was laid reminded those women that Jesus was still dead.

We are already broken, so hopeless, no more strength to do anything more but sometimes things would come and remind us of the situation. We might hear some people say, "I told you it won't work," or "You should have listened to me," or "That is why you are useless," These reminders just cause us to feel more hopeless, well, this was the situation they were in. The stone was stopping the women from getting to Jesus.

The question in verse 3 "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" is a cry for many people today isn't it? Who will roll away the stone of my life, who is going to help me with my financial hardship? Who is going to roll away the stone of my sickness, the stone of relationship problems, the stone of getting my visa? Who is going to roll away the fear of death? You have tried your best, you have given up so much to get what you wanted, you have worked so hard but you just can't seem to get there.

Mark 16:4-5

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

When we are just about to give up, may we look up to Jesus, our hope of salvation, our hope of eternal life, our hope of victory in our difficulties. We can't solve the problems, but God has already done it. God has already rolled away your stone.

Mark 16:6

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Jesus is risen, He has over come death and power of darkness. You know, a lot of issues that we face are spiritual matters. We need to have victory in the spiritual realm if we want to see victory in the physical realm, because as Ephesians 6:12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

Luke 24:5

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "**Why do you look for the living among the dead?**"

Don't look at the dead, don't keep on looking at what is hopeless, or what is discouraging. Jesus is alive. He is alive in you. When we look up to Jesus there is hope, there is miracle, there is deliverance.

V5b See the place where they laid him.

The angels invited the women to come and see.

Matthew 28:2

²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Jesus could have just walked through the stone to come out from the grave. The stone was rolled away for them to see that Jesus was no longer there.

I believe that the stones in our lives are rolled away so we can see that God is real, God is able, and God is love.

3. **Joy of resurrection (Matthew 28:8-10, 18-20)**

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

When the woman heard what the angels said, they were full of joy. The Jesus they loved so much is alive. Then Jesus appeared to them personally.

These women believed what the angels said. Is it possible that Jesus appeared to these women because their hearts were open? Jesus will appear to those whose heart is ready, to those who believe in His word.

Because of their faith these women experienced the resurrected Lord themselves. Those who experienced the reality of Jesus, the joy of salvation, the forgiveness of sin, and the freedom from eternal condemnation will want to tell others about their experience.

Those who have experienced what Jesus has done for their lives, and how he has solved their problems and hardship would want to tell others about Him. They would want others to share of the joy that they received. It is natural for us to share the good things that we have, we want others to have that joy too.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This verse becomes natural for us. For those who have experienced the joy of salvation, those who have experienced what God has done for their lives, this verse is no longer a command. It is something we want to do.

Some of us may have been Christians for so long that we forgot the joy when we just got saved or baptised. We are beginning to bury Jesus back in his grave. I pray that God will restore the joy of salvation in our lives, I pray that we will relive the joy when we first encountered the resurrected Jesus.

Let our testimony be no longer from responsibility but from encountering the living Jesus which will just flow from our lives naturally, because he is risen, he is alive in you and in me.