

“Power During the Ordinary”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Did you have a challenging week? Are you weary and wonder where the strength God promised is?

Take this Resurrection Day with me and ponder this scripture.

3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 Peter 1:3-6 (NIV)
A wonderful gift God gave us in Christ's resurrection. Not only did he deliver us from our sins through his death and resurrection, but he also provided us with

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everything we needed to get through the trials of our lives. Let me rephrase that, he did not give us just what was needed to “get through” life, he gave us all that we need to succeed joyously in life.

What do we do so ordinary things in life do not seem drudgery?

Remember who God is. God orchestrated and carried out a plan to redeem mankind and restore the relationship between God and man for those who choose to believe. So if God had the wherewithal do this, and he kept his promises that he would do such, then his promise of strength, joy, and endurance are true also. Just hang on, and refuse to lose hope, because joy and hope are ours!

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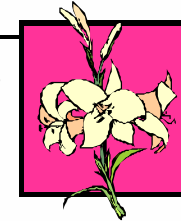
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Vol. 6 No. 14 April 8, 2007

...with The Sojourner

“Jesus, Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Matt. 27:50-56 & John 20:11-18



What a marvelous thing it is to hear how God the Father raised Jesus the Christ from death to life, just as he had promised!

No One Killed Jesus!

No one killed Jesus! “Oh, yes they did,” you say, “the Romans and the Jews killed Jesus!”

Well, they were the stage hands in the plan of redemption, but in the final event they did not kill Jesus. Jesus gave up his spirit to the Father. By doing so he left his lifeless body there on the cross for the redemption of all mankind. Look at the scripture in Matthew. Jesus cried out and gave up his spirit.^[1] No one took his life, he gave it up voluntarily. No man can kill God!

The Temple Curtain Tore

It was when Jesus gave up his spirit that the Temple Curtain tore from top to bottom. Now, the curtain was several stories tall and several inches thick, so the fact that it tore from top to bottom proved no man could have done it. The curtain symbolized man's separation from God by sin. Serving as a re-

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[1]
Matthew
27:50

[2]
Matthew
27:52

[3]
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27:55

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Matthew
27:53

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Matthew
27:54

mind of the barrier which existed up until Jesus took mankind's sins and sicknesses on himself, the curtain now showed the barrier no longer existed because mankind could boldly approach God through the blood and death of Jesus the Christ.

Tombs Broke Open

Tombs broke open,^[2] we are told and, “The bodies of many holy people were raised to life.” This would certainly seem to dispel any ideas concerning the disciples stealing Jesus' body from the tomb to stage a fake resurrection! This is in fact a foreshadowing of when Jesus comes to get his bride, the believers who have died when they are raised from the grave to meet him in the air. This event had many witnesses according to scripture.^[3] It is interesting to note that while these were raised from the dead they did not go into the city until Jesus was resurrected and returned to the holy city.^[4] Even non-believers were forced by what they saw to acknowledge Jesus was the Son of God.^[5]

Do Not Touch Me

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Matthew 27:50-56 & John 20:11-18 (NIV)

The Death of Jesus

50And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. 52The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 54When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" 55Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

John 20:11-18

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

10Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11but Mary stood outside the tomb

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crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." 14At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." 16Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). 17Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

"Jesus, Resurrected!" (Teaching Sketch)

Matt. 27:50-56 & John 20:11-18 (NIV)

When Mary Magdalene was at the tomb after Jesus' resurrection, she was weeping greatly when she did not find his body in the tomb. She encountered two angels (two is the number of adequate witness). Mary turned after they asked her why she was crying only to see the Lord himself standing there (three is the number of perfect witness). Mary did not recognize him at first even after he spoke to her (It is important to expect the Lord to be in a person's life and to speak to them). She realized it was the Lord when he called her name. The same is true today when people encounter the Lord when he calls out their name. This was true of Saul who persecuted believers until Jesus called out his name! Jesus told Mary not to touch him because he had not yet ascended. Why was this? He had not yet, as our high priest, gone up to the ark in heaven and sprinkled the blood of the sacrificial lamb there as the high priests had done in the temple once each year he was to go and do it once and for all. If a high priest was touched before he went into the Holy of Holies in the temple he was then unclean and could not enter to do his function. Jesus fulfilled all necessary to restore mankind's relationship to God then he returned to his disciples for 40 days. He is risen still!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Communion**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

