

It's still Good News

Imagine that you are sitting quietly in a café with a couple of friends when suddenly the door bursts open and in rushes a stranger with a wild, excited look on his face. "Good news" he shouts. "You'll never guess. The greatest news you can imagine." What on earth can he be talking about? What could his *good news* be, and why does he think it justifies barging into a café and telling strangers about it?

- Perhaps the doctors just told him they had managed to cure his daughter of the disease that was killing her. That would be great news indeed, at least for his immediate family and friends, but it does not explain why he would announce it to strangers.
- Perhaps he heard that the local football team had won a great victory against their old rivals down the road. In some parts of my own country, people would indeed celebrate such a thing as good news, though most fans probably would have been at the pub watching the game with him. Why leave the celebration to tell the nonfans at the café?
- Perhaps, in a region with high unemployment and poverty, he just learned that people had discovered huge new reserves of coal, oil, or gas. Suddenly there would be thousands of new jobs and a new start for everyone. I know places where that would cause otherwise quiet people to burst into a room and shout the news to everybody. That might justify such a dramatic announcement.
 - i. News is good to those who have experienced bad news
 1. There is a history, but this news changes everything.
 2. Grace
 - ii. News is good to those who have been waiting for others

1. Changes our perspective
2. It gives hope
- iii. News is good to those who didn't know
 1. It answers the questions we didn't know to ask
 2. It gives purpose

Today we celebrate that we have news that impacts everyone. It's not just Good News to a few folks, but the Resurrection of Jesus has changed everything for all time. Perhaps today you need to hear that. Perhaps today, you need Good news? Easter is for you. Let's look at not how just to live with this knowledge, but to thrive in the presence of the living God.

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

What could possibly be good news to everyone? What could I possibly tell anyone and it be good news? None of these stories would mean

something to everyone across time and geography. What could? The defeat of death.

That's why the resurrection of Jesus was Good News. But Jesus's resurrection isn't just some historic event.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means He is still alive and among us today.

When we say "Jesus is risen!" we have to understand that "He is here among us today!"

The Resurrection affects the way we live as our worries are met with hope

Women adored Jesus

Honor his life with worthy burial

What about the stone???

Jesus removes the stones in our life too. Chiefly, the stones of sin and death.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that everything He said, every promise He gave, every claim He made, is good, stamped with Heaven's verification.

The Resurrection affects the way we live as our rebellion encounters grace

Go and tell the disciples...and Peter.

This included also Judas?

They had betrayed, abandoned, and denied him

But his grace, his love, was sufficient to cover them. He died so their sins would be forgiven, and he rose again to restore them to relationship.

Jesus's resurrection is good news for us too as we have rebelled. We choose our own way today. But in the midst of it all, God loves us, he extends the love of Jesus to cover over our sin. His grace is available to everyone.

Instead of living in regret of our past or fear of our future;

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means we may live boldly in this life, since death has been defanged and declawed!

The Resurrection affects the way we live as our silence is given a purpose

The women left scared, apparently told no one until they got to the disciples

How could they be silent?

Jesus was alive.

Obviously they didn't stay silent forever.

They were given a purpose that brought an end to their silence.

Is your faith silent?

Jesus loves you anyway, think about that. Think deeply about that. I challenge you that as you do, you will find yourself motivated to tell others about your faith.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ means we have a gospel, ladies and gentlemen, unlike any other message on the planet! And everyone needs to hear it.

You and I are the messengers. We get to break the news to those still cowering in fear of death. We have the privilege of unlocking the chains holding them in darkness.

This sense of purpose is what Mark was illustrating when he included the quote from the Angel to have the disciples meet Jesus in Galilee. If you go back to the beginning of the book of Mark, in Galilee, you will see what I'm talking about.

Mark 1:15 (ESV) — *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

That's where Mark is inviting us too. But first, do you believe that the tomb is still empty? Was this Good News, or a terrible death? We are not here to honor the dead, but to praise a living God.