

**RESURRECTION POWER****#1 – THE FAITH OF THE MARYS****MATTHEW 28:1-8**

*After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.*  
Matthew 28:1

**I. The Faith of the “Marys”**

- ***The faith of the Marys is the faith of the \_\_\_\_\_*** – Out of all the disciples, only a few women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus with spices. Luke indicates there were others with the two Marys, including Joanna – but no men! Their anointing Jesus with spices was a form of adoration and worship for a dead rabbi. But, Jesus wasn't there! We don't worship a dead spiritual leader (like Muslims and Buddhists), but a risen Savior, the Son of God.
- ***The faith of the Marys is \_\_\_\_\_ but persevering*** – The Marys and the gang went to anoint a dead Jesus. They still had not understood what Jesus had taught and actually taken place. But they practiced what they understood. They did not fear retribution from the anti-Jesus Jewish hierarchy or the Romans – they had persevering faith. Today, our faith will not be perfect – we won't understand much of what God is doing. Why does He answer some prayers, but not others? Why does He seem to “hide” when we need Him? But when we have the “faith of the Marys” – we persevere in spite of not understanding. We worship Jesus with our actions in spite of confusion and disappointment.
- ***The “faith of the Marys” is not stopped by \_\_\_\_\_ stones*** – The most amazing thing about the faith of the Marys was that they were not deterred by the immovable stone. Earthly wisdom (the laws of science and physics) clearly teaches that a small group of women could not move a 2½ ton stone. Why even try? But the faith of the Marys trusted that all they had to do was trust and obey – and God would do the rest. This is faith-action. Faith without action is not true faith.

**Y Growth Point:** Today, do you trust and obey – practice faith action – even when reality says it is impossible, with the immovable stone in your life?

*There 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, Who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him.’ Now I have told you.” So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell His disciples.*  
Matthew 28:2-8

**II. Be Amazed at the Open Grave**

- ***The stone was moved and the grave \_\_\_\_\_*** – The grave had been secured and guarded. The Jewish religious leaders and Roman government wanted to assure the Jesus problem was dead forever; and not going to cause them problems again. But in spite of the efforts of man to kill the Jesus problem, the supernatural work of God overcame and was victorious. The stone was moved away!

- ***The supernatural work of God is clear for those to see with eyes of \_\_\_\_\_*** – The women encountered a man whose costume “gleamed like lightning” – an angel. No one else saw him because their lack of faith had not brought them there “to see”. The angel was there with a message: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He has risen!” (Matthew 28:5-6) We must “show up” in faith to see God’s work.
- ***The stone was moved to let the women in to see Jesus had \_\_\_\_\_*** – The stone was not moved to let Jesus out. In His new glorified body, He could travel through walls. The grave was not an obstacle. Today, when we experience impossibly moved stones (miracles), they are signs to build our faith.
- ***The supernatural work of God directs us to do His \_\_\_\_\_*** – The angel had four messages for the women: 1) “Do not be afraid.” The resurrection brings hope, not fear. When afraid, remember the empty tomb. 2) “He is not here.” He is alive today, with His people. 3) “Come and see.” They could check the evidence for themselves. The resurrection is a physical and historical fact. 4) “Go quickly and tell.” They were to spread the joy of the resurrection. We are to do so today.

***Do you have “faith of the Marys”?***

<b><i>Answers: I. Few; imperfect; immovable. II. Empty; faith; risen; work.</i></b>
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