

Joseph

Words / Matthew 28:1-20

Verse / Matthew 28:19a "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations"

Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins. When God's wrath poured out on Jesus, who carried our sins, Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) Jesus died and was buried in the tomb. However, after three days, Jesus overcame death and rose again. Praise the Lord of the resurrection who overcame death and resurrected. The passage vividly records the scene of Jesus' resurrection that overcomes the power of death. The risen Jesus appeared to the disciples in sorrow and despair and planted the faith of resurrection. And he gave the world mission. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations!" We pray that Jesus, who overcame death and resurrected, will plant resurrection faith in our hearts.

I . He was alive (1-6)

See verse 1a. It was still dark before dawn, the very morning that Jesus foretold the resurrection, saying, "I will rise on the third day" (Matthew 20:19). There were women going to the tomb where Jesus was buried in this dim day. They were Mary Magdalene and the other Marys. Why were they heading for the tomb before dawn? This was to apply the oil of oil on Jesus' body (Mark 16:1). No matter whether Jesus was alive or Jesus was buried in the tomb, their love for Jesus did not change. Three days had passed since Jesus died, but the women's sorrow did not go away and tears did not dry. Especially when they thought of Jesus on the cross, they couldn't help crying. Their steps were heavy, and their hearts were empty. "Who will roll stones from the grave for us?" (Mark 16:3)

But what amazing thing happened when they came to the tomb? See verse 2. "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." The soldiers were guarding the tomb of Jesus, and suddenly, a great earthquake shook the whole earth. And the angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel rolled a giant stone that was blocking the door of the grave at once, and sat on it.

What did the angel on the stone look like? See verse 3. "His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow." The angel, like a powerful lightning bolt dividing the darkness, broke all the powers of darkness and filled it with light. The shiny clothes were so white that it was hard to look at them. How terrified the watchmen were, they were afraid of seeing an angel and trembled to death.

What was the inside of the women looking at all these sights? The huge stone that was blocking the tomb door was rolled away, and the tomb door was wide open. On the huge stone, the angel in the shape of a lightning sat down and radiated, and the soldiers were scattered like dead people. The women trembled.

How did the angel comfort these women? See verse 5. "The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified." The women were looking for the crucified Jesus instead of the resurrected Jesus. Sadness, emptiness, and despair were full of women. The angel comforted them by saying that he knew the sadness and despair of the women.

And what wonderful news did the angel give these women? Look at verse 6a. "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." The resurrection message resonated through the angel. Jesus was no longer lying in the place of death. As Jesus said, "I will rise on the third day," he overcame the power of death and rose. Sakyamuni, Confucius, Socrates, Genghis Khan, Alexander, Qin Shi Huang who built the Great Wall, and any other great men were forced to kneel before the power of death. When the power of death called, we have to leave everything in this world and go to the grave. So humans have no choice but to grieve, vain and despair before the power of death. But Jesus overcame the power of death and rose again. Praise the Lord Jesus of the resurrection, who overcame the power of death and resurrected!

What is the evidence of Jesus' resurrection? See verse 6b. "Come and see the place where he lay." Three days ago, when Jesus was crucified and died, Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus and placed it in his empty tomb. And the entrance to the tomb was blocked with a large stone. The women all witnessed it. However, the large stone that was blocking the entrance to the tomb was rolled up. And the tomb where Jesus' body was placed was empty. This empty tomb is sure proof that Jesus Christ was risen again. "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."

What mission did the angel give women? See verse 7. "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." The angel told women to go quickly to the disciples and told them that he had risen. He ordered the news of the resurrection that he was raised from the dead.

What was the heart of the women who heard the message of the resurrection from the angel? See verse 8. "So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples." Fear and indescribable joy came upon the hearts of the women looking at the empty tomb. The tomb where Jesus was buried was empty. The darkness of sorrow, emptiness, and despair that filled their hearts had been lifted, and the light of the resurrection life began to shine. The resurrection hymns began to burst with great joy from their hearts. "Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Savior! Waiting the coming day Jesus my Lord! Up from the grave He arose With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a Victor from the dark domain And He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!" After singing vigorously, they left the tomb with great joy and ran to let the disciples know. How did the resurrected Jesus show himself to the women at that time? Look at verse 9a. "Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said." The resurrected Jesus appeared before the women who hurried to tell the news of Jesus' resurrection. And he said to the women, "Greetings" There was no peace in Marys under the power of death. Instead of peace, it was full of anxiety and sadness, vanity and despair. But Jesus, who overcame the power of death and resurrected, removed all of them and gave real peace to their hearts. The women went to the resurrected Jesus and held their feet and worshiped.

What did Jesus command these people? Look at verse 10. "Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." The disciples fled when Jesus suffered. Peter denied knowing Jesus even while cursing. Jesus could have cut them from his disciple list. However, Jesus sent an invitation message to them again, trying to restore them. Furthermore, he called them "My Brothers", considering them as brothers and heirs who would participate in Christ's resurrection victory and inherit the inheritance of the kingdom of God.

Here we can learn Jesus' unchanging love and hope for his failed and broken disciples. The disciples' current appearance was fragile, frail, and subdued, but Jesus was not disappointed with their present collapse in failure. Rather, he understood their limitations and weaknesses without the faith of resurrection and looked at them with eyes of hope. Even though their present appearances were extremely weak, he looked upon them to be witnesses of the resurrection that would rise from the place of sorrow, weakness, and despair, and fear not even the power of death when the resurrection faith came upon them. He hoped that they would rise and become the main characters of history to create the great history of Acts. In this faith and hope, Jesus went to Galilee to instill resurrection faith in them. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

What plot were the religious leaders making? See verses 11 through 15. The chief priests and elders gathered together to discuss, give soldiers a lot of money, and spread the false fact that Jesus' disciples came and stole Jesus' body at night. Thus, it has spread throughout the Jews to this day.

I was born in Seoul in 1986. My family had been in a steady economic crisis since that moment. My dad left the church and persecuted my mom's faith, which caused them to fight every day and night. Fear and anger against him grew in me. I suffered from them even to have a nightmare that my dad brutally harmed my mom. My compassion for my mom and hatred for my dad drove me to deep fate, and I resent God and pessimized my life. I just wanted to escape from this fatalistic reality.

In 2007, I entered Sungkyunkwan University, but there was no hope or any vision for college life. Though I was a freshman Bible student at Youljun UBF, I had no interest in studying the Bible at all. But I just loved to be with the people there since they were so good to me. I found peace by hanging around with them. They did not demand me but loved and served me out of God's love. God healed my wounds in this loving fellowship. Then, I began to open my heart to the people and to God. God began a great work in me so that I came to love the word of God. I joined the intensive Bible study group during summer semesters, studying Genesis, Romans, and 2 Timothy. The Bible study went on everyday in the summer semester, studying the Bible and writing reflections for each study. The power of the word crushed and transformed my inner disbelief and bitter roots that were hardened by childhood scars and misunderstandings. And at the summer Bible conference in my sophomore year, I shared my life testimony and acknowledged God's good will and plan for my life. I met Jesus on the cross personally through Luke 23:34, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.", realizing that it was not the family discord and poverty caused my life misery but my sin problems of deep hatred, anger, obscenity, and lust. Then I repented of my sins with tears. Not only was I forgiven of my sins, but I overcame the power of death by meeting the risen Jesus personally. The power of the resurrection came alive and worked in me. The resurrected Lord destroyed all the sadness and fate of the past and the worry and anxiety of the future that had overwhelmed me at once, and changed me who was like a dead person under the authority of death to enjoy true life. Almost every day I woke up to the dawn, longing for the true life that the Lord gives me, and I went to the church to meditate on the word of God and pray. Since then God had blessed me to actively serve campus ministry as one of student leaders. Praise the power of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

II. Go and make disciples of all nations (16-20)

How did the eleven disciples obey Jesus' words? See verses 16 and 17. They obeyed Jesus' words and walked a long way from Jerusalem to Galilee for more than four days to attend the Easter Conference in

Galilee. The disciples met the risen Jesus and worshiped in amazement. However, there were some who doubted Jesus' resurrection.

The resurrected Jesus came to the disciples. What faith did Jesus plant in his disciples? See verse 18. "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus overcame death and was resurrected to receive all the powers of heaven and earth. This is the power of the commander-in-chief of the spiritual world that governs all powers present in heaven and earth. What powers are there in all powers of heaven and earth? There is the power of Satan the Devil to roam the whole world in search of those to devour. There is the power of evil spirits to constantly fight against the Holy Spirit. There is the power of sin to make humans' conscience and soul, as well as the mind and body sick, corrupt and destroy. There is the power to die, instilling a pleasant nihilism that you will die tomorrow and eat and drink today. There are also powers of illnesses which cannot be cured by medicine. There is the power of great Judaism to ridicule and oppose the Gospel, the power of intelligence and thought from Greece, and the power of secularism and materialism in Rome. There are Muslim powers, Hindu powers, and communist powers. When we stand before these powers, we feel like shabby and helpless. But Jesus said that God had given him all the powers of heaven and earth. Jesus, who overcomes death and is resurrected, has the power of the spiritual commander who moves and rules all these powers. Jesus has the power to forgive sins, the power to heal diseases, and the power to drive out evil spirits. God has left all the powers of heaven and earth in the hands of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of All, who has all powers of heaven and earth.

What does it mean to the disciples that Jesus has this power? The disciples were weak and helpless. They faced the powers of Judaism, which do not seem to move like a mountain, the powers of Greek intelligence and thought to ridicule and oppose the Gospel, and the great powers of Roman secularism and materialism that mock the Gospel. When standing in front of these powers, they are forced to feel deep frustration because of their weakness. But Jesus says. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus wanted His disciples to count on the Lord of the Resurrection, who has all powers of heaven and earth. Jesus believed that when the disciples rely on and put on the power of Jesus, who has all powers of heaven and earth, they will change the world and complete world missions.

What mission did the resurrected Jesus give his disciples? See verses 19 and 20. "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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

First, therefore go!

Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore go!" The disciples were afraid of a world full of enemies of the gospel. But Jesus commanded them to go by relying on the power of the risen Christ, who has all powers of heaven and earth! Jesus wanted them to become witnesses of Jesus.

Second, make disciples of all nations!

Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. This Jesus is the Lord of love and hope, who loves all nations of the world and places hope in any nation.

How does Jesus tell them to make disciples? “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” First, we should baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the direction to help one soul be born again through the word and even accept and confess Jesus as the Savior. It is an amazing and great event for a soul to be born again and receive Jesus as Savior. But Jesus doesn't want us to simply remain born and baptized into a spiritual infant. Furthermore, he wants to grow as a disciple who obeys everything that the Lord has commanded. If we want to make disciples, we must teach and keep everything Jesus has commanded. We should not stop in teaching Bible knowledge, but teach them to obey the Word.

What promises does Jesus give to his disciples who obey world mission commands? See verse 20. “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus promised to be with them all the way to the end of the world. This promise is the greatest comfort to the weak disciples. We cannot serve disciple-making ministry as missionaries and shepherds on our own. However, when Jesus, who has all the powers of heaven and earth, is with us, we can rely on that power to make disciples of the Lord in this sinful and humanistic generation. We pray to believe this word of promise and boldly challenge and dedicate ourselves to discipleship among all peoples, going to campuses in Korea and around the world.

God blessed me to establish a house church with shepherdess Yoonha. However, we faced strong opposition from her dad. I was so distressed and even went through Bell's Palsy on my left side face. The left facial muscle nerve was paralyzed, so I couldn't close my mouth, so food leaked out and couldn't even close my eyes. I took my sick leave and lay down with a hard face in my apartment. I couldn't understand the meaning of the hardship that came upon me. However, God awakened my soul through the daily bread words of Job and word of Tribulation. I admitted that they were personal callings from the Lord, and I meditated deeply on the word of God. In prayer, I realized how weak I was that I couldn't move my face muscles at will and could not live without God's grace and mercy. In the meantime, I repented with the tears of my prideful sins that relied on my own efforts without relying on God. And when I laid down all my present and future problems to Jesus, who has all the powers of heaven and earth, regardless of my paralyzed face and reality which hadn't changed, the true peace and freedom from the Lord filled me in abundance. I came to have faith that the God who had guided me faithfully so far would take responsibility and lead my life. Through hardship, God removed my earthly desires for a comfortable life and helped me firmly grasp the vision of the campus shepherd who feeds the world. And I applied for Ph.D. programs in faith by relying on God alone, not on human effort and sincerity. Despite my lack of preparation and ability, I got Ph.D program admissions from three universities including Texas A&M University only by the grace of God. Afterwards, God also miraculously moved shepherdess Yunha's father's heart so that we could establish our house church with many blessings. From the upcoming fall semester 2016, my family will move to the Texas A&M campus in the United States. We believe that Jesus, who has all the powers of heaven and earth, will always be with us. I pray to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything Jesus has commanded.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations” (19a)