

The Father's Glory: The Son's Exaltation

The Story of Easter Three Years Earlier

"Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."²⁰They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"²¹But the temple He had spoken of was His body.²²After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what He had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken." - John 3:16

1. Jesus declared that He would raise from the dead after three days.
2. This statement and its fulfillment was key to the disciple's faith.

The Story of Easter Morning

"Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.¹¹Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb¹²and 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.¹⁵He asked her, "Woman, 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 ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" - John 20:10-17

1. Mary wouldn't give up. She wept uncontrollably.
"I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." - John 16:20
2. She saw two angels and they asked a question. Why?
Don't miss the picture!
"There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites." - Exodus 25:22
3. She then saw Jesus face-to-face but didn't recognize Him.
"Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country." - Mark 16:12
4. Jesus asks the same question but adds one. Who?
5. Mary's response shows a lack of understanding; a lack of faith; a lack of common sense; but incredible love.
6. Jesus calls her by name. Miriam!

"The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" - John 10:3

7. She immediately recognizes His voice and calls Him Rabboni.
8. She clings to Him but Jesus asks her not to do so for He was going to return to the Father. (Not to heaven, angels, glory, etc.)

Note the equality: "My Father and your Father"

The Story of Easter Evening

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁰After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." - John 20:19-21

1. The resurrection didn't change the environment in Jerusalem.
2. Jesus appeared to ten disciples and brought true peace.
3. He was sending them as the Father sent Him.

The Story 50 Days Later

"God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.³³Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." - Acts 2:32,33

1. The disciples were no longer afraid but were preaching the story as first-hand witnesses.
2. They declared that Jesus had received His place of exaltation from His Father.

The Story at the End of Time

"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!⁹Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name,¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." - Philippians 2:8-11

- The Father will exalt His Son; the Father will be very proud!

What Do I Learn?

1. The stories are consistent.
2. The stories teach of the wonderful relationship between Jesus Christ and His Heavenly Father.
3. The stories remind us that Jesus died and rose again and that we need to believe in Him so that His Dad can be our Dad!

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