**Resurrection for Ministry**

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.****2****And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.****3****His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.****4****And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.****5****But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.****6****He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.****7****Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”****8****So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.****9****And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.****10****Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10)*

***16****Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.****17****And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted.****18****And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.****19****Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,****20****teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20, ESV)*

Jesus’ resurrection drives each believer to service. Christ is risen from the dead, blessed is the resurrection of Christ![[1]](#footnote-1) What a joy Jesus’ victory over sin and death is for all of us! The seal of that victory was the Lord’s exit from the tomb, His resurrection from the dead. However, that victory of His did not only show His identity and victory, but also the mission of his followers, the church. The Resurrection itself became a new beginning for the apostles and women who followed Him. Jesus’ resurrection became a reason, a driving force, a goad for becoming involved in ministry/service. Today, we’re going to talk about just what kind of ministry the Resurrection of Christ propels us into, because of the very fact that the Resurrection event, as the very foundation of Christianity, drives each believer into the path of service. Let’s see, then, how this happens…

The dissemination of the news of Jesus’ resurrection is itself the foundational and essential ministry for every disciple of His. Perhaps you were thinking that the service mentioned above pertained to some specific ministry aspect of Jesus’ years of service. Maybe you would have thought that since Jesus had performed many healing miracles then the latter would be the primary goal of the church. Or, since He had given amazing and deep explanations for the Word of God, perhaps *that* specific ministry would be our duty as His followers. But duty of love that comes out of the Resurrection event is much simpler and more foundational than that. The first example of it that we have in the text is found in the words of the Angel of the Lord. “Come and see where He lay, and then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead.” It is very simple – “*Come and see, and then go and tell them that He has risen from the dead.”* It’s as if he wanted to say, “First make sure of the fact, so that you yourself are sure of it, and then go and spread the news of the Resurrection.”

Very often when we go food shopping and we may buy paper goods, perhaps napkins, maybe some spices, maybe some sweets, or similar such things. Which of us, however, avoids buying the basic foods? Can we stay healthy buy eating only sweets or drinking sugary things? Can we avoid drinking water and remain in good health?

Jesus’ Resurrection is our foundational and basic spiritual food, which we must believe in as well as share with others. If the Resurrection has indeed taken place, then it is the most important and indispensable reality for the whole of humanity. If you have believed in the truth and reality of the Resurrection of Christ, then Jesus is Lord and you are His disciple, and you are considered a Christian. If, however, the Resurrection is secondary or unimportant, then you cannot be called a Christian and you have not yet grasped the foundation of Christianity. The Bible is clear in what it states: The one who believes not just in Jesus’ identity or service, but first His Resurrection, that is the one who is considered a follower of Christ and a part of the people of God.

Therefore, first examine your faith regarding Christ’s Resurrection, and then go ahead and spread that news just as the women and then later the apostles would do until their last breath here on this earth. Again, the dissemination of the news of Jesus’ resurrection is the foundational and essential ministry for every disciple of His. Jesus’ resurrection drives each believer to service.

1. Traditional Armenian greeting on Resurrection (Easter) Sunday. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)