

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!

Psalm 30:5

Many Times in The Bible The Words Morning -

Many times old time preachers began by announcing a sermon text. And there was honesty in that. It may not be the most exciting way in the world to begin today. But the outset, everyone knew what God's exact word on the subject was to be. Today we find it best to make a starting with some startling statement. Or to tell a story to create an interest. And many times the congregation may not even discover what the Biblical text is.

This morning I begin in the good old-fashioned style with a text. This is the most important word of the sermon - for it is what God has to say. You are likely to be surprised at the source because I am not quoting the exact text from the Easter story or the account that happened on that first Easter morning. I am taking a text from the Old Testament. Psalm 30 - Verse 5. "Weeping, may tary for the night but joy cometh with the morning."

Indeed this is a wonderful text. It is so because this is an Easter Sunday sermon. Joy comes with the morning. These are words of hope and promise. They remind us of morning glories. Those simple little flowers that bloom in the shape of a trumpet to welcome the morning sun. You see the morning glories climbing up brick walls, ambling over tumbled down fences, climbing up the strings that people have tied for beans to run upon. The morning glory greets the morning. And it is part of the glory of the morning. Joy comes in the morning when the night is over.

Many of you no doubt have heard the musical "Oklahoma". And the first lines - Oh, what a beautiful morning. Oh, what a beautiful day. I have a wonderful feeling. That everything is going my way.

Mon. 22:3
Abraham was up early in the morning
claimed not mental - tried to sign
changed in check.
main was early in morning went up
some mental for comm.

Tha. 5:5 (back part) / then shall they fight
Break fast on the morning
- mental -

Fam 3:23 (back morning) / they are now every morning:
start in my part of the morning

Pa 5:17
Evening & morning & at noon will all pray
& cry aloud & to that hear my voice.

9:27 3:7
after the morning star sang dropping
all the room of God started for joy?

1 Th 23:30

1 Th 19:6
Elyah in the breath of the morning
knows him best in the morning (2d)

John 3:4
John was early in the morning
+ second John -

John 6:12
John was up early in the morning
+ second John -
John's took up the ends of the bread, & composed, loaves 9 loaves,
that the hungry, people about 12000 were full down yet -

I. OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING THIS IS

Point number one, it is morning. Not just any morning - but the morning of a special day - Easter. You know it. You knew it all along. One would have to leave all of his senses not to know it.

Long before this day arrived, we knew that this day was on the way. The trees are beginning to bud. The flowers are blooming. The Easter lilies are blooming. The people are beginning to make their way back home from Florida. It is Springtime. And people are planting things. And the cold earth has now begun to appear with blossoms and buttercups. And countless other beautiful flowers.

From the time we set our foot inside the sanctuary today, we have been surrounded by signs and symbols of the day. The triumphant music from the organ. From the choir. The lilies in their purity. More people come to worship. To sing joyously together. Everything joins in the celebration. And we find ourselves thinking and we'd like to say to you - oh, what a beautiful morning this is.

All of us have memories of Easters that have passed. Those memories bless us. Memories of the family circle - the whole family going to church together. There were boys and girls with new Easter coats. Little girls with hats and ribbons. Eyes shining, faces smiling, mothers were pleased at how their children looked. And fathers seemed to be thankful.

It is the same - is it the same today. The children have grown up. They have moved. They have children of their own. Grandparents have gone on to the other side. But thank God for the communion of saints. In Christ we are all one and all together. And we feel very close today - even to those who have graduated out into eternal life.

We need Easter and its message. For the night is long - and often too long for

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TOO LONG FOR

us. The night is dark - and often too dark. We wonder whether there will ever be a daybreak. Whether there will be a time when this night will be over. But when the first rays of the morning light streak across the sky - the dawning of the day at last - it's freshness, it's promise. And we feel like singing, oh, what a beautiful day this is. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna forever more.

This day people still have fears about the difficulty of affirming the idea of the resurrection of the body. What it meant to Paul - it meant something else to others.

I Cor. 15 - we note first the Corinthians were not denying the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But what they were denying was - that of the body. They said, that is impossible. But if a man denies the possibility of the resurrection of the body - then the Christian message is empty.

Second, we note that there were many ideas. First, there was the Jewish background. They denied that there was any life after death at all. And therefore, they completely denied both the immortality of the soul and the resurrection of the body. Acts. 23:8. There was very little hope.

Very much like the Old Testament - Sheol was only the after death. The abode of all the dead. It was beneath the world. And it was a ghostly existence. And yet Job gives us the glimpse that he had. Still I know one to champion me at last. To stand up for me upon earth. This body may break up, but even then, my life shall have a sight of God. Job 19:25.

Psalm 16:9 my flesh shall rest in hope for thou will not leave my soul in Sheol.

Now in the Greek - they believed in immortality of the soul. But they never had

any dream about the resurrection of the body. There was a fear of death.

But on the whole, the Greeks believed in the immortality of the soul. But there is a difference because they felt that the body would be extinct and dissolved. The body was just a tomb when the man died. It was dissolved into the elements. And the Greeks just said death was to get rid of the body. For in the resurrection, the body was unthinkable. Personal immortality did not exist.

Now Paul gave a quite different view. Beginning with that great fact. He said the Christian belief is that death, the individual will survive. And you will still be you and I will still be I. To the Greek, the body was just matter. It was a source of evil, a handicap. To the Christian, the body was not evil and could not be evil after the incarnation. Jesus Christ, the son of God has taken on the human body upon himself. And he has come to live and to inhabit your body and how shall it be contemptable again.

There are many who ask how can the dead rise. Really there is no hope. And Paul never said that we were going to get this same body back. He said we were going to get a spiritual body. But it would be no loss of self or of personality. The individual remains - he believes in the resurrection of the whole man.

Oh, what a beautiful morning this is to think about - the matter of the resurrection.

II. OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING THAT WAS

What morning is that - the first Easter morning of course. Let's see now - what did we leave off when we last gathered for worship. We talked about the cross.

And then on last Thursday night there was the meeting in the Upper Room. Yes, they ate and drank the wine and they communed with their friends and with our Lord. And then came Friday and Jesus was nailed to the cross. After he died, they tenderly took his body down. Carried it away to the garden tomb. And then they rolled the huge stone in front of the tomb and had it sealed. And they placed some soldiers there to guard that tomb. Then the curtain comes down, just like the end of history and the story. Had it been the end, we wouldn't be gathered here this morning. And this morning wouldn't be so beautiful. It took the beauty of that morning to make this morning beautiful. Let's think about that beautiful morning that was. Now after the Sabbath towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene came to see the sepulcher. "Matt. 28:1. This has to be one of the most glorious lines in the Bible. One hardly dares to speak about it - really to explain it. At the first opportunity these women were on their way. They rose early and gathered their things together in a little basket. They moved very quietly so that they would not disturb anyone or draw attention. They slipped through the streets of old Jerusalem. Down the paths to the garden tomb. Tears were in their eyes.

As they entered the garden, one ask the other, who will roll away the stone.

When they came nearer, they discovered the stone already removed. Their anxiety shifted, we are worriers all the way. If we don't worry about one thing, we find something else to worry about. Who will roll the stone away. The next thing, who has taken away the body. And they were prepared for the worst.

The angel told them that He had risen - He is not here. The place where they layed him - you can see it. If ever anyone could testify to the truth, of our text, it would be these women on the first Easter. Weeping, they terry for the night - but joy comes with the morning.

They had wept through the long night, and were counting on weeping some more.

But their tears changed to joy.

The morning sun bathed the whole garden with sunlight. Divine joy filled the whole place with peace. The night is over. The morning had come, and with the morning had come joy. What a beautiful morning that was. And old spiritual puts it well.

//
My Lord, what a morning.

A morning that changed weeping women. A morning that changed despondent disciples. A morning that changed world history.

The disciples took off in all directions after the Holy Spirit descended on them. They went to Syria, they went to Greece, they went to Rome. They went and move across Europe, they moved to Britain, they moved to America. The history of the last 1900 years, has been written with the resurrection in the center of it.

The message of Easter is this, Jesus went up. The Holy Spirit came down and the Disciples went out to tell the world. Herein, is proof of what a beautiful morning that was. Paul took up the train of this beautiful morning that was - and he said this good news had not been intended by man. But it was first delivered to him by the news of a risen Lord.

Paul says it is something received - the good news is always something that someone else is ready to share with us. No man ever invented the Gospel for himself. That is the function of the church. The transmitter. No man really can have the Heavenly Father without the church for his mother.

This is something that gives stability to an individual.

It is not something that we pick up at random.

And as you think about what a beautiful morning that was, Paul said in V. 5 that the risen Lord made an appearance to Peter. And he appeared unto him. This is amazing that one of the first appearances of the risen Lord was to the Disciple who denied him. This is part of the wonder of the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ. Others might have hated Simon Peter forever. Peter had wronged Jesus and he had wept his heart out about it.

V. 7 Paul said he made an appearance on that day to James. Even his own family misunderstood him and they sought to restrain him.

It moves my heart today to think that in all the story of Jesus, that two of his first appearances when he arose from the tomb on that beautiful morning were to men who had hurt him cruelly and who were sorry for it. Jesus meets the penitent and the contrite heart half way.

V. 8 Finally Paul says the most precious thing in the world is that Jesus had made an appearance to him. V. 9-11. He tells about this very humbly.

V. 12 That was a beautiful morning because of the great fact in V. 12. That truth is stronger than falsehood. The enemies put Jesus to death with their false views. They had succeeded - then falsehood would have been stronger than truth. And good is stronger than evil. The forces that crucified Jesus were evil forces but the resurrection triumphed above them. Love is stronger than hate. If there be no resurrection it means, that the hatred of men in the end conquered the love of God.

There was a church in London having a harvest Thanksgiving during the war.

And they had brought in a sheaf of corn and had it on the altar and that night there was an air raid and the church was layed in ruins. The months passed and the spring came. Someone noticed on the bomb sight where the church had stood, there were shoots of green. The summer came and those shoots flourished. And there was a flourishing patch of corn in the midst of rubble. Now the bombs and the destruction could kill - but never kill the life of the corn and its seed. Life was stronger than death. And the resurrection is proof that life is stronger than death.

That wonderful hymn is a glorious fact - up from the grave he arose. With a mighty triumph over his foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain. And he'll live forever with his saints to reign. He arose. He arose. Hallelujah, Christ arose.

is only that word

III. OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING THAT WILL BE

That beautiful morning makes this beautiful morning beautiful. And what's more, that beautiful morning gives us the promise that a beautiful morning when this earthly life is over and we move on to the other side. And Heaven is begun - is going to be a great wonderful time. When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more. And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair. When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore. And the roll is called up yonder - I'll be there!

Oh glad and wonderful morning when we too shall enter the presence of God. And we pass through the folds and the curtains of death.

An old Navajo chief heard the Gospel from a missionary but he refused to accept it. The Jesus road is good - but I have followed the old Indian road all

of my life. And I will follow it to the end.

Months later in the shadow of death, he asked the missionary - can I turn to the Jesus road now. My road stops here. I have no path through the valley of death. "

Remember what Paul said, I Cor. 15:55-57 - oh death where is thy victory, oh death where is thy sting, but thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. " Oh what a beautiful morning that will be. All because of the first Easter when Christ arose - the victor over death and over the grave. The old Indian wanted to change roads - and perhaps it is a time for some of you to change roads today. Because the righteous will one day rise. Every man wants the Jesus path - at least through the Eastern gate, that will lead him into the new Jerusalem. " I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses. And the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet, the birds hush their singing. And the melody that he gave to me, within my heart is ringing. "

Yes, Paul said that even the sting of death is going to be and has been removed.

I read about M. R. De Haven walking through the field one day. Where some men had some bees. And as you know a bee has a needle sharp stinger. And it is equipped with a little barb. And it goes in to stay. And it causes the death of the bee. The stinger of the bee once it enters the flesh cannot be withdrawn. Because these barbs prevent it. The only way that the bee can free itself is to tear away from the stinger - leaving it behind in the victim whom it has attack. It is now a bee without a stinger. It is harmless. It can still buzz but it cannot sting.

He said that his two boys were walking with him through the orchard. They came close to a bee hive. And in some way, one of the bees made a straight line for one of the heads - and before he could do anything about it - the bee stuck his stinger in the flesh just above the eye. With a howl of pain, the boy brushed the bee away. And the bee darted toward the other boy. The other boy cried. And dropped to the ground and hid his face in the grass. The father walked over, raised him, and said listen - that bee cannot hurt you. It can only scare you. And then when he stopped crying - I showed him that little dark speck in his brother's forehead. There is the bee sting - he left it in your brother. And now it is harmless as far as you are concerned. It can buzz around and scare you almost to death but that sting - he has no power to sting and soon he will die.

Now that's the story - the sting of death is sin. And may be compared to the sting of a bee. But Jesus Christ came and took our sin upon him. And it was sin that stung him to death. And that sting of death is gone. Now death may buzz around and may frighten you - but it cannot do you any damage. The sting of death is sin. But thanks be unto God, we have the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What a beautiful morning that will be. When we pass into Heaven that will be when Jesus comes to welcome us. And we will know him - the hand he extends will have the mark of a nail. The sting of sin. With him will be all of those we have loved long since and lost awhile. They will be there to welcome us in the morning.

I want to repeat here one of the best known instance, perhaps in the 20th century, about Peter Marshall. His preaching was unexcelled. And after his early death, his wife increased the influence of his preaching with a biography, "A Man Called Peter". In an unforgettable scene near the end of that book, Katherine describes waking up - or walking, in the middle of the night - with Peter complaining

of severe pains in his chest and in his arms. It was 3:30 in the morning. She called the Doctor and he soon came. An ambulance was called. Katherine remained at home with young Peter asleep in his room. As Peter was being carried out, she said to him, "I'll see you in the morning." His soul had already left his body before she arrived at the hospital a few hours later. Her words took on new meaning and a totally new dimension. Her faith, the Christian faith, assured her that she would indeed be seeing him in the morning.

Oh, what a beautiful morning that will be. Death where is thy sting. Thanks be unto God who giveth us the victory.

Somewhere I read the reference of F. B. Mire - that dedicated English preacher. Of a whole generation or two ago. Just before he died, he wrote a line to his friend. I've just learned that to somewhat to my surprise, I have only a few more days to live. It may be that before this letter reaches you, I shall have entered the palace. Do not bother to answer - we shall meet in the morning. //

In the book of Revelation we read of a new Jerusalem. Described by the Apostle John as the city four square. The city where the gates are never shut by night. The city of eternal morning.

Oh, what a beautiful morning (this is) as we gather together to praise the risen Lord.

Oh, what a beautiful morning (that was) when Mary met him on the garden path.

Oh, what a beautiful morning that (will be) beyond the sunset when Heaven is begun.

Will you hear this truth again. Weeping may tary for the night but joy comes in the morning.

What is your destiny. The saved will spend eternity with the resurrected Christ in Heaven. The lost will spend eternity with the author of death. The Devil in the place of eternal separation from God. The decision is up to you.