

EASTER SUNDAY MESSAGE BY THE BISHOP OF THE WHOLE WORLD

TOPIC: **THE LOVE FOR JESUS**

TEXT: JOHN 20:21

BIBLE REFERENCES: MATTHEW 28:1-20, 2 COR. 6:2, 14:18, 7:1, PSALMS 24



The glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is an event Christians should remember. If you claim to love Jesus Christ, you must remember Him so that He will remember you as well.

The empty tomb of Jesus means victory over death. No matter how long a person is buried, if you dig the grave, you must see the remains of such persons. In the event of an empty grave, it means someone had stolen or removed the body from the grave.

Jesus has power over death and the tomb that He was buried in that was why death could not hold Him back. Jesus Christ deliberately submitted His life for the redemption of mankind. If not, nobody could have taken His life. Jesus Christ demonstrated His power over death in the case of Lazarus by raising him back to life. Before the death of Lazarus, Jesus told His disciples that the sickness of Lazarus was not unto death but to bring glory to His Father. All that Jesus did were to give glory to His Father.

The Love for Jesus. The love Mary had for Jesus was so great. When Jesus was killed oppressively, all the women who were following Him witnessed it. They prepared costly spices which they would apply on the body of Jesus. But time could not permit them to do so. When Mary Magdalene was applying the expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus, the disciples never knew that she was preparing Jesus for burial. But Jesus knew and He openly told the disciples when Judas Iscariot was complaining, because of the way Mary was pouring the perfume on Him.

What made the tomb of Jesus Christ to be empty?

Before the death of Jesus Christ, He told His disciples that just the way Jonah stayed in the belly of a fish for three days, the Son of man shall stay in the belly of the earth (grave) for three days.

After the death of Jesus Christ, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea met with Pilate and demanded for the body. They carried it and buried it in a new tomb. On the third day when Jesus Christ was to resurrect, Satan and all the demons as revealed, gathered before the tomb of Jesus Christ to make sure that He never resurrected. On that day, an angel was sent to roll away the stone, but the forces of darkness present waged war against the angel but they could not withstand God's power. He commanded, *"Fling wide the gates, open the ancient doors, and the great king will come in. "Who is this great king? He is the LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, victorious in battle."* (Psalms 24:7-8, GNB). The moment the angel did this, the guards, Satan and all his cohorts fell to the ground and the stone was rolled away. Gloriously, Jesus resurrected. Mind you, Jesus has the power to

resurrect without the intervention of the angel. God made it happen that way so that the soldiers could have something to narrate when they return home.

In the early morning of on Sunday, after Jesus had resurrected, Mary Magdalene visited the tomb of Jesus, to see how they could apply the spices the women prepared on the body of Jesus Christ. When Mary Magdalene arrived there, she could not find the body of Jesus. She thought the body was stolen so she quickly ran to the disciples and told them what she saw. When the disciples got there, the tomb was really empty. They returned home sad; leaving Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

The Love for Jesus. Because of the love Mary Magdalene had for Jesus Christ, she refused to leave the tomb in that dark lonely moment of that morning. She was there crying when she saw two angels sitting by the tomb where the body of Jesus Christ was laid. "They have taken the body of my Lord," Mary Magdalene told the angels. When Jesus saw the deep love Mary Magdalene had for Him, He appeared to her.

The grave of Jesus Christ was not just empty for no reason, Jesus Christ resurrected from the grave. This is how you shall resurrect from any grave you have found yourself in Jesus' name.

To mankind, the death of Jesus Christ is a favour from God. HE sent Jesus Christ to carry away our sins. I urge you never to neglect this favour from God. Light and darkness cannot walk together. As a Christian, you are a light, while the devil and his works are darkness. So, stay far from anything that has to do with darkness. Your body is the temple of God, and cannot be used for the works of the devil. Stay away from sinful people and God will accept you. Purify yourself from anything unclean so that you can show your love for Jesus Christ in full.