

If you pay attention, you can learn something new every day. We are constantly being bombarded with new information. The only problem is that frequently we do not assimilate it, or, as my mother used to say, we allow it to go in one ear and out the other. Because of that, we learn a lot of things many different times before we actually remember them. That is one of the reasons why teachers tell us that repetition is the mother of all learning. Jesus also understood that, and I think that is why Jesus told His disciples what was going to happen when they went up to Jerusalem, then allowed it to happen, and after His resurrection explained to them again what had happened. This also points to the value of celebrating special holidays, for we get to hear again and again the wonderful things which Jesus has done for us. The more we hear it, the more likely it is to remain in our memory. So this Easter morning, let us again go to the tomb with the women and LEARN OF JESUS TO RISE. As we hear the angels speak, we shall learn why Jesus had to die, and then we shall learn why He rose again.

The followers of Jesus had heard many times from Jesus' lips exactly what was going to happen when they went to Jerusalem. But it seemed to go in one ear and out the other. It never really stuck with them. It was for that very reason that the women went out to Jesus' tomb early that first Easter morning as a funeral procession. They did not remember what Jesus had said would happen to Him. Their hearts were so filled with grief over the fact that Jesus had died that all they could think of was to finish His burial before He began to stink.

What a surprise they had when they saw that the tomb was open and when angels appeared to them inside! The angels tried to get them to remember Jesus' words: **“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”** (5-7) It was necessary that all this happen to Jesus only because of His love for us. His love for fallen mankind compelled Him to come to this earth to redeem all from their sins. To do that required His innocent suffering and death on the cross. Don't you remember that He told you all of this was going to happen so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled which spoke about His work? Jesus' death was caused by your sins, by my sins. His love compelled Him to suffer and die the horrible death on the cross.

That is why Jesus had to suffer and die, but our eyes are not to remain there on the grave. Let us not look for the living among those who are dead. He is no longer in the grave, for He has risen, just as He had said He would. So we not only need to learn why He had to die, but we also need to learn why He rose again. His resurrection showed the entire world that He was the victorious Son of God who had redeemed the world from their sin. He had taken upon Himself the sins of the world, and the Lord God had accepted His sacrifice as payment in full for all of them. For that reason death could not hold Him — He had broken the power of death. He rose from the dead so that we would realize that we too shall rise to live with Him forever in the mansions of heaven. The sin which bound us under its power and would doom us to eternal death in hell has been conquered by our risen Lord and Savior! His victory is our victory, for He offers it freely to

all mankind. He desires that all come to Him in faith and have their sins washed away in His blood, so that they might live forever with Him. That is the message which the empty tomb proclaims so loudly.

After the angel said these words to the women who had come to the grave that Easter morning, we read, “**Then they remembered his words.**” (8) Oh, yes, now I remember that He spoke about all of this. They had heard this message before, but they really had not listened to it before this time. They had not learned from Him what He had been trying to teach them. But now Jesus had their attention. Now they were listening. After seeing Him executed and laid in a grave, after mourning His death for two days already, having come to His grave to finish burying Him and not being able to find Him, after seeing and hearing an angel speak to them, finally something clicked. They remembered His words.

This remembering was not just a recall of the facts, but it was more a realization of faith. They now were able to put their faith in Him and what He had told them. Jesus was their Savior. His suffering and death was for their sins. His resurrection was also theirs, for just as He rose, so would they rise to life eternal on the last day. As we celebrate this Easter, may we remember His words and Learn of Him to rise. We will not be able to do this on our own, but by putting our faith in Him and what He has done for us, we know that He will raise us to life eternal. May we keep hearing that message until it sticks within our hearts forever, for that glorious Easter message is the heart and core of all that we need to know to live with Him forever in the mansions of heaven.