

Roll the Stone Come to supper Mark 1;1-86 Easter April 1, 2018

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

Today we speak of the stone that stood in their way

Dear friends in Christ, the three women had a plan. They wanted to take care of the dead. They wanted to go to the tomb to anoint Jesus body. And they put a lot of work into their plan. They got the spices. They got up early. They met together and they went to the tomb. They wanted to take care of the dead.

But there was something they couldn't take care of, something they were worried about. There was a stone in front of the tomb. A large stone, which they didn't have the strength to move. One they hoped someone would move for them, so they could take care of the dead.

Well, they had a surprise coming. When they got there, the stone was rolled away the tomb was open. Their worry had been for nothing. And so were their plans - he was not there, he had risen. All their time spent planning and working for the dead were done. The obstacles were overcome, not by them but by God. And he had different plans, plans not for the dead but for the living. Tell the disciples. Christ goes to Galilee. There they will see him. It is time for living, not for the dead.

How often we do the same thing - we worry and plan about death and the fear of death. Doctor's appointments. Health bills. Insurance coverage, Health directives. Estate plans. We worry about planning for retirement and how we will pay for it, how young people will live. How often we miss the living because we are planning for death or how to avoid it. We try to worry about the small stuff - the payments - because we are powerless with the large stuff death. It's a stone too big. Even just taking care of the dead and the dying is too much for us.

And that is kind of vague, so particular. Thanksgiving day.

There is a surprise for us too. the stone is rolled away and there is life. Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, alleluia. The stone is rolled away that we may see that death is defeated. WE need not make our plans, we need not worry or fret, for death is defeated. The firstfruits are raised and life abounds.

Can't know without being told.

So don't worry about your plans, whether you are mourning right or preparing right. Let God's plan be. Go forth and share the good news. He is not hear, he is risen. Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!