



WHEN SUPPOSED TO BE GIVES WAY TO VICTORY

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SUMMARY

Easter Sunday. was supposed to be a day of darkness, a day of disappointment, and a day of defeat. It was supposed to be a day of hurt, a day of humiliation, and a day of hopelessness. It was supposed to be a day of sadness, a day of mourning and grief, and a day for tears to be shed. BUT, through His resurrection, Jesus turned the supposed to be's into a day of rejoicing and victory. Easter Sunday now is a day of confidence and celebration. It is a day of great excitement, of abundant hope, and of eager anticipation. The power of God has accomplished great things in the past, but His power is still doing great things today.

MESSAGE

Luke 24:1-9 says, *"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest."*

If you're in the habit of marking things in the Word of God, I'd like to draw your attention to verse 4 where the Bible says, "*And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout...*"

For a few moments, I'd like to consider this thought: **WHEN SUPPOSED TO BE GIVES WAY TO VICTORY.**

I want you to notice how this chapter begins. It begins with the word "*Now...*" It's a word that is easy for us to simply read and skip right over, and yet, it is one of the most powerful words in this entire passage.

Now is powerful because it's **PERSONAL.**

This was a group of ladies who were living in their *now*. *Now*, please don't miss that. We live in the present. We function in the *now*. It's what makes this very moment so important to us.

Now is powerful because it's **PECULIAR.**

Their *now* was the culmination of all their *yesterdays*. Each one of these ladies and each one of the disciples had a unique story to tell, and yet, the path of their lives had brought each of them to where they were right *now*.

Now is powerful because of its **POTENTIAL.**

Change is possible *now*. Victory is possible today. You see while the disciples had allowed their *now* to **LOCK** them in the upper room, these ladies allowed their *now* to **LEAD** them to where Jesus was where they found a reality that forever changed their lives.

As this group of ladies made their way to the tomb where Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea had laid the body of Jesus, I believe two things were true:

(1) They **REFLECTED** on what had happened to Jesus

No doubt each of these ladies thought about when they had first met Jesus. Oh, how He had made a difference in their lives. *Now* that shouldn't come as a surprise because that's what Jesus does – **HE CHANGES LIVES.**

I know I'm getting a little ahead of myself here, but I just can't help it. I know Jesus changes lives because that is exactly what Jesus did for me. He changed my life, and the reality is that since I met Jesus, I've never been the same, and by the grace of God I'll never be the same again.

No doubt each of these ladies thought about the words that they had heard Jesus speak. The Words of Jesus had given each of these ladies **HELP**, and **HOPE**, and **HEALING**. The reality is that no one ever spoke like Jesus did. But His Words aren't just **PRECIOUS**, His Words are **POWERFUL**. You see, when Jesus speaks, things happen. When we study the

ministry of Jesus, we find that His Words have the ability to **HEAL HURTS**, to **HELP HEARTS**, and to **TRANSFORM HOMES**.

No doubt each of these ladies thought about what they had seen happen to Jesus just three days prior.

They witnessed the flesh being ripped from His back.

They saw the crown that was beaten down upon His head and the nails that were driven through His hands and His feet.

They heard the sound of His bones being jarred out of place when the cross was dropped into its place, and they had carefully listened to the cries of Jesus from that old rugged cross.

They saw the blood that was shed and that flowed down the body of Jesus and dripped onto the ground beneath.

They stood in darkness in the middle of the day, and they watched as Jesus suffered the torments of Hell on that cross for them and for you and me.

They then watched as Jesus lifted up His head to shout, "It is finished," and then hung His head and died.

They trembled as the earth shook, as the temple veil was torn in two, and as the rocks were broken asunder.

Oh, it was a day that they would never forget.

(2) They **ANTICIPATED** what they would find when that arrived at the tomb of Jesus

As they made their way to the tomb that morning, there were some things that they expected to find.

They expected to find a huge stone blocking their way to Jesus.

They expected to find strong soldiers guarding the sealed tomb of Jesus.

They expected to find the battered and beaten body of Jesus wrapped in linen clothes and lying inside of that sealed tomb.

They expected to shed many tears as they took the spices that they had prepared to anoint the body of Jesus.

What a shock it must have been when the very things that were supposed to be weren't so at all.

The stone that they expected to face was rolled away from the door,

The soldiers that they expected to find were cast to the ground,

The body of Jesus that they expected to anoint was gone, and

The tears that they expected to shed don't appear to have been shed at all.

Now all of that brings us to our text. Verse 4 says, *"And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout..."*

These ladies knew what they had seen yesterday, and yet, what they were seeing now left them in a state of perplexity. Now, I looked up what that word *perplexed* means and I found this definition "nonplussed." And I thought, "Well, that doesn't help at all." So, I dug a little further and I found that this word *perplexed* means "to be at a great loss." It has the idea of an individual that is so uncertain and so confused that you don't know what to say, what to think, or what to do.

These ladies found themselves **IN** a situation, but they could not see a way **OUT** of their situation. There just didn't seem to be any solution, any explanation, or any consolation.

That first Easter Sunday morning was supposed to be a day of darkness, a day of disappointment, and a day of defeat. It was supposed to be a day of hurt, a day of humiliation, and a day of hopelessness. It was supposed to be a day of sadness, a day of mourning and grief, and a day for tears to be shed. BUT instead, through His resurrection, Jesus turned the supposed to be's into a day of rejoicing and victory, a day of confidence and celebration. It is now a day of great excitement, of abundant hope, and of eager anticipation. You see, Jesus alone has the power to turn your **NOW OF PERPLEXITY** into a **NOW OF PURPOSE**.

Can I say it this way – their supposed to be's gave way to victory and Jesus can do the exact same thing for us.

This morning, you have a sin problem that says your supposed to spend eternity in Hell, but in Christ your supposed to be gives way to victory.

This morning, you may be dealing with a very real and very big struggle that is supposed to hold you back, that is supposed to pin you down, and that is supposed to take you under, but in Christ your supposed to be gives way to victory.

This morning, you may have a relationship that is supposed to be over that is supposed to be irreconcilable, but in Christ your supposed to be gives way to victory.

What I'm trying to say is that there is an answer for your now, there is hope for your now, there is help for your now, there is comfort for you now, there is victory for your now, and His name is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57 says, *"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Throughout the resurrection story, we find that...

The power of Jesus can give you victory over your **FEARS**.

The power of Jesus can give you victory over your **UNCERTAINTIES**.

These ladies and the disciples weren't dealing with a lack of information (Jesus had already told them exactly what He was going to do; they were dealing with an inability to put all of the pieces together and to put them in their rightful place. Jesus can help with that.

The power of Jesus can give you victory over your **FAILURES**.

The power of Jesus can give you victory over your **FINALITY** (death).

Jesus said, in John 11:25-26, *"...I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*

Romans 10:9-11 says, *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."*

Romans 10:13 says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*