

**“Why All the Fuss?”**  
**By Brother Parrish Lee**  
**Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

We have dedicated this month to be the Path of Jesus month. The first week we talked about from the birth of Jesus up until He was twelve. The second Sunday we talked about Jesus from the age of twelve until Palm Sunday. Last week was Palm Sunday and today is Easter. We are going to open up today with a Scripture from Mark 16.

*Mark 16:1-16 ...He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven devils...*

If you would just bow your heads with me for a moment: “Lord, we thank you for everything that You have given us today, and, truly, we are amazed at Your greatness and Your power and Your Spirit, that You just pour down on us. If You would consider us to be brought into Your Kingdom. Lord, we are just in awe of You. So, Lord, as You have given us so much today, we pray for the reading and the going over Your word, and the message today, Lord, that it would do *exactly* as You would have this to do. That Your Word will not return unto You void, but it will accomplish exactly what You set it out to do. We pray for a blessing on us, the recipients, and me, the giver, God, as You would give all this. God, we pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Why all the fuss? What’s the big deal? Last week was Palm Sunday, and on Palm Sunday, the big deal was that the Lord Jesus went and rode an ass's colt into Jerusalem. The spread out palm leaves in His path, and they threw them in the air, and they put their garments in his path, and He was riding into the city, and they exclaimed "Hosanna, Hosanna, glory to God in the highest!" They were having some big expectations about that. The question is, “Why the big deal? What’s all the fuss about? I’m sure many people rode an ass’s Colt into Jerusalem, or maybe even an ass. I’m sure there were many people gave messages in the Temple, so why did they make such a big deal about this guy, and why were His messages so powerful? Surely there were other people brought before the Sanhedrin, turned into the council for this reason for that, so why the anger and the animosity about this guy? What’s all that fuss about? We know that there were others that were crucified, so why the big deal about this one. Why the account written and passed down through the ages from generation to generation? Why all the fuss?

*Matthew 21:11-15 ...cast out all them that sold and bought in the Temple...*

Now if there was a reason, if you ever wonder why some of them were upset, this is it. Jesus, after He went into Jerusalem, He turned over those tables; this was how they made their living! They made their living doing this, and He flipped over those tables, and not only that, He cleaned out that courtyard! He cleaned up the Temple area, and not just that: He turned, and He healed the lame and the blind (right in front of them!), and the young people were praising God-- Oh, what a sight that must have been. That's a big deal—You’re able to give sight to the blind, You’re making people walk that had never been able to walk before, that’s a big deal. So the Lord Jesus cleaned up the temple, chased out that which didn’t belong, and put back in what should have been there: The Spirit of God. That’s a big deal—but it’s even bigger than that.

This must have been a sight, to see the Lord come in and do all of these things right in front of them. That must have been *awesome* to see.

*Matthew 26:30-32 ...After I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.*

(The sound of Jesus singing must have been awesome. Talk about sincerity. That must have just melted hearts.) After I am risen again, after I am risen again! Jesus didn't wait until He was on the cross to tell them that He was going to be risen. He didn't wait for things to get really, really bad; He told them right then, "After I am risen again, I will go before you." Now to us in 2013, that sounds pretty good, but we have already seen His testimony and we have heard His story, but, way back then they must have said, "After You are risen again? Lord we have seen You open blinded eyes, we've seen that. And we have seen You heal the lame. If truth be told, we have even seen you raise a person or two from being dead. Now, don't get us wrong, those things must have been marvelous. That's better than any doctor. We've seen You raise Lazarus, the young maid, and the young man that was the only son of his mother, but, Lord, all those people, they still get hungry. They all still sleep, after a couple of days, those people all need baths, and most of all make mistakes and sin. Most of all, they're all going to die again, Lord. Is this what You were talking about? Extending Your life? Is this what we have to look forward to?" That must have been awesome for the disciples trying to figure that out.

Speaking of trying to figure things out, I've got a quick story. Years ago when I was in the service, 1981 to be exact, my ship visited a lot of countries, and one of them was Israel. What a beautiful land it was. That was my first time. I hadn't heard very much about it; maybe a little bit. That kind of piqued my interest. They offered these tours so I thought it would be special to go on one; some of the people I knew talked about Bible stuff, let's go see some of this stuff. We went to all these places, the place where Jesus was born (they built a church there), They built churches some of the places where Jesus did miracles, there was a church at Golgotha (what we would call the place of the skull), but one of the places we went to was this church where they say He rose again. I think it's called the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. I didn't know anything—I wasn't a Christian yet, and I had just come from being Muslim. We stood in this line and walked into this temple within the temple if you will. So, I'm in there with some of my shipmates, and we're looking at this stuff, and it was really interesting. We went on and walked past this really fancy tomb and it had glass and jewels and flowers all these things on it. I look inside and couldn't see a body. So I exclaimed to my shipmates, "Hey there's nobody in there!" Then quite loudly, "Hey, there's nobody in there! This is a rip-off!" At the time, I didn't understand why nobody was around me. Everybody was giving me plenty of room. *I didn't know!* I didn't understand what the resurrection was about. I must have had the same sort of reaction that the disciples had, "What possibly could it be that you're talking about, Lord?"

So Jesus was delivered away to be crucified. That should have been the end of the story. No more miracles, no more crowds following Him from city to city, no more news being shared from place to place. The truth on that one is, there were many stories to go along with that. Those who had experienced His healing, I can imagine them saying, "Well, I guess that's it. They done crucified that guy, so next time I'm in pain or I need a healing, I don't know what I'm going to do." The people that were without comfort, I can imagine them saying, "Well, the great guy that came and treated us with love and compassion, they crucified that guy, so I guess that's the end of that. No more compassion, and no more great love coming to us." I'm sure those who were around Him and learning, and studying, and having their questions answered; I'm sure they

were thinking, "I don't know what we're going to do now. They crucified Him. Where are we going to get that great wisdom about God and His Kingdom and His ways? I guess that's the end of that." Those who traveled with him, the disciples, the 70, the women ministered to him in with him, I'm sure they were thinking, "What now? They crucified our Lord? What are we going to do? Are they going to hunt us down? Are they going to kill us, like they killed him?" Saints of God, this was all a big deal; this was all a great big deal. Why all the fuss?

*Matthew 27:47-53 ...the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom...*

The big deal; yes, this was a big deal. At that time, we know that there was a Holy Place, and then there was the Most Holy Place; where the Mercy seat was, and there were the cherubim. That's where you could go in and talk to God, but, *not* you, only the High Priest, and not any time he felt like it, just once a year. You were separated, because of that veil that was there. This veil, when our Lord was crucified—when he paid the price, was rent, and now we have access to that same mercy, and that Voice, the Almighty presence of God. That was a big deal. That earthquake, that shook, that's a big deal because now whatever foundation, whatever empire, whatever financial institution, whatever family matters, whatever problems, whatever foundation you're thinking of, it got broke down. The quake shook it all out because the foundation was now being laid that could stand up to *any* other foundation. This is the one that was going to take the cake. It was a big deal, because rocks were broken; big rocks and little rocks; they were broken. There was One Rock that was on the scene, and, yes, saints, He is our Rock; He is our Scepter; He is our Sword, our Shield; He is our High Tower, He is our Bridge over troubled waters; He is our Answer. This Rock, over every other rock, showing that there is One Rock that is the Great Rock. This is a big deal.

For everybody that likes those crazy zombie shows, the Bible says that the graves were opened; not all the people, the graves of the Saints. Showing everybody that this Guy, this Lord, the Crucified One has the power to bring any saint up out of the grave. He doesn't scare you too bad, hey, that's a big deal! He's already proven that He has the power; He'll loosen the bonds of death. Yes, that's a big deal.

When I'm alone and the Lord comforts me, that's a big deal. When you're sick or in pain and you need Him to minister and come to you and give to you what you can't find no place else, and the Lord reaches out and touches your situation, that's a big deal. When you have a problem, an issue, something that you can't deal with yourself, and you just turn it over to Him, and He says, "I am *your* Lord. This one is min that he gave to me." The Lord will come through for you. That's a big deal. In 2013, a man didn't know the name of the Lord, and, even when I spoke it, it had no meaning. Now, in 2013, saints, we can speak His name, and know that there's something going on there. That's a big deal. When we share, and sing His praises, and read His Word; when we give it over to Him and His presence is there before us. That's a big deal.

I have a quick side bar today. You know what this time of year where they have all these religious shows on TV. (sidebar within the sidebar: You have to be careful about these religious shows: Hollywood is not a friend of God. Some of those religious shows, they're way past kooky, they're actually blasphemous. Some of them are way past stupid; they actually hurt. Okay, end of the sidebar to the sidebar.) There's this one religious show on TV and they call it, "The Bible." It's a miniseries. Anyone seen it? It's quite popular. There's some guys at work, every Monday, they ask me about it, "Hey, did you see it?" One of the people said, "I didn't know that the angels were Ninjas." (They're running around with Samurai swords.) It might be

popular, but, accurate? Well, that's a subject for another time. Anyway, it's popular. It's very popular. It's so popular, that you know what they did? They wrote a book about the movie! They made a book about a movie, that's based on a book. It's called, "A story of God in all of us: a novel based on the epic TV miniseries 'the Bible.'" Let me say this, rather than get it third or fourth hand you can get it straight from the vine—the Bible itself. We don't have to read about this person's interpretation and how they might have heard it from somebody else who heard it from somebody else. We can get it straight from the vine itself, the Word of God. Now back to the message.

When all this stuff was going on, one person stands out.

*Mark 16:9 ...He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.*

He appeared first unto Mary Magdalene. Why in the world did Jesus appear to Mary first? After all, he had twelve disciples that followed Him everywhere. He had the seventy that He had given power over all manner of sicknesses. There were plenty of dedicated people. There were people of the Pharisees that came out. One was Joseph, and he gave Him His tomb. There were plenty of people who were dedicated, but why would Mary be first? Is it because she was so thankful that she had all those demons cast out of her? That's a great point, but that's not it. Is it because she was a woman, and had that compassion that men just won't understand? Hey, that's a great point, but that ain't it. Is it because she went to rise up early in the morning? You know, if that was it, I'd be out. Do you know why He appeared first to Mary Magdalene? according to the Word, she was the only one looking for him. My point is, yes, she was thankful for all the things that the Lord had cast out of her life. Yes, she was thankful for the things that the Lord continued to do. According to the scripture, she was the only one there at the tomb, the only one looking for the Lord. She was the only one, so, naturally, He was going to appear to her. In the scripture, she went back to tell the disciples, and, of course, they didn't believe her. That says a lot right there. She was the only one looking.

*Hebrews 11 6 ...without faith it is impossible to please him...*

He is a rewarder of those, not those that sit by the wayside and hope that something is going to happen, but He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. That's a guarantee. That's a promise. So, you know what you can say? you can say, "Thanks. What's that going on over there in my life? I'm feeling a little something, a little emotion. You know what that is? that's the Lord, rising in that area of my life. Oh, what's that going on over here? I need to investigate. You know what's going on over here? That's the Lord, rising in this area of my life." I have to look, I have to search, I have to seek, for areas of my life, and I will find that the Lord is trying to rise in areas of my life. He's trying to rise in areas of all of our lives. If we seek Him, then we will find Him.

The next part of this big deal:

*John 1:12 ...to them gave He power to become the sons of God...*

Saints, this is a *huge* deal. Our relationship is changed. It was, before, that you could be a servant, you could be a laborer. You could be a person that God could tell something to do, and you could be an obedient person. You could be in one of all kinds of offices: you could be a

prophet of the Lord; you could be an evangelist; you could be a tribe of the Lord; but our relationship has changed from all of those offices, all those duties, now we can be a son of God, a daughter of God, a child of God. That is a *huge* deal. I've seen parents that would huddle their children, they'd have friends and stuff over, and when somebody would do something wrong, they would chastise them all, but when it's *their* child, they paid special attention. As my mom used to say, "I can't do it for everybody's child, but I can do it for *my* child. My child will act right. You ain't gonna embarrass the family. I ain't got jurisdiction over him, but I do over you, and you know I'll fix you up." It worked. To be a child of God, think of that. When you were not a child, and you become a child, everything changes. Now you have that love that never goes away. I'm not talking about concern and affection, I'm talking about parental love. From that, I'm going to go to my last Scripture for today (this is going to sum it all up):

*John 14:1-3 ...I go to prepare a place for you...*

Our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us. May God add a blessing to the reading of His Word. Happy Easter, everyone! God bless you.

