

CLASS: SS1
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS STUDIES
TOPIC: THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
WEEK: 9
TERM: THIRD TERM

CONTENT

1. Meaning of Resurrection
2. The synoptic accounts of the resurrection
3. Comparison of the Three Accounts of Resurrection in the Synoptic Gospels
4. The Role of Women in the Resurrection Story of Jesus
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Meaning of Resurrection

To resurrect means to bring back to life or to rise from the dead after being declared dead. This coming to life again after death happened to Jesus as he had predicted on three different occasions before his death.

COMPARISON OF THE THREE ACCOUNTS OF RESURRECTION IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

The Account of Resurrection in Matthew (Matthew 28: 1-8)

The resurrection story of Jesus Christ in St. Matthew's gospel holds that early in the morning, on the first day of the week (Sunday), Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb. There was a great earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. The appearance of the angel was lightning and his raiment as white as snow. This created great fear in the guards.

The Angel said to the women 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen as He said.' The Angel further invited the women to come and see where He was laid. The Angel finally directed the women to go quickly and tell His disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead,

and to further inform them that Jesus was going before them to Galilee where they would see Him.

Mark's Account of Resurrection (Mark 16:1-8)

After the Sabbath following the day Jesus was crucified, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought spices in order that they might anoint Jesus in tomb. They went to the tomb during the sunset, on Sunday morning, the first day of the week. They wondered who would help them roll away the stone covering the tomb of Jesus. On arrival, they found that the large stone had been rolled away.

On getting to the tomb, the women were amazed to see a young man dressed in a white cloth, sitting on the right side of the tomb. He told them that Jesus was not there but risen. The Angel also showed them where Jesus was laid and directed them to go and inform His disciples and Peter that they would see Jesus in Galilee, as He had earlier told them.

Luke's Account of the Resurrection (Luke 24:1-11)

On the first day of the week, the woman who followed Jesus from Galilee took the spices which they had prepared and went to the tomb of Jesus in order to anoint His body. However, on getting to the tomb, they found the stone rolled away and nothing in the tomb.

While the women were afraid by what they saw, two men stood in dazzling apparel. As the women were frightened, and bowed their faces to the ground, they spoke to them saying, 'Why do you seek the living among the dead?' The men reminded them of the Jesus' earlier revelation about His crucifixion and resurrection. The women remembered His words, and as they came back, they told what had happened to the eleven apostles and to the others. The women who went to the tomb and brought the news of the resurrection were Mary Magdalene, Joana, Mary the mother of James and others. The apostles received the news of resurrection of Jesus, as presented by the women, with doubt.

Similarities in the Three Accounts of Resurrection

1. All the synoptic gospels gave accounts about the resurrection of Jesus.

2. They all stated that the women disciples went to anoint the body of Jesus in the tomb.
3. They all mentioned Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James.
4. They were instructed to go and tell the disciples of Jesus that He had resurrected.

Differences in the Three Accounts of Resurrection

1. Only Mark mentioned Salome while other gospels were silent about Salome.
2. Matthew reported that there was an earthquake while Luke and Mark did not report anything about any earthquake.
3. Matthew and Mark mentioned that the women disciples met one young man, but Luke mention two men.
4. Matthew reported that God sent an Angel from heaven and rolled the stone and sat on it.
5. Luke and Mark did not report of an Angel descending from heaven.
6. Matthew used the word sepulchre for tomb while Mark and Luke called it tomb.
7. Matthew did not make mention of the spices or ointment that the women took to the grave.

The Role of Women in the Resurrection Story of Jesus

1. They were the first to get to the tomb to embalm the body of Jesus.
2. They had first-hand knowledge of what actually happened.
3. They were the first to know of the empty tomb.
4. They were also the first to know of the resurrection of Jesus.
5. It was from the women disciples that Peter and the rest of the apostles got to know about Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
6. The message to the apostles to meet Jesus in Galilee was given to the women disciples.

Significance of the Resurrection to the Christian Faith

1. Christ resurrection is the basis of Christian faith. If there was no resurrection, there would not be any Christianity.
2. The resurrection of Christ teaches Christians that there is life after death.
3. The resurrection shows Jesus as the Saviour of the world.
4. Jesus' resurrection made the disciples to be courageous and bold in the spreading of the gospel.

5. It provides hope for Christians about eternal life – a hope that the Lord we are serving is alive.

ASSIGNMENT

Narrate the trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin.