

From today's sermon

Pentecost (the day of Pentecost) is finally approaching the week after next. Today, let us encounter the resurrected Lord from the Gospel of Matthew.

When the angel appeared, shining like lightning and white as snow, the soldiers guarding the tomb of the Lord were so terrified that they trembled and became like the dead. The Lord is a fearsome power, able to easily remove even the greatest obstacles we see, and He tells us, "Peace be with you; do not be afraid. The fearless chief priests got together with the elders and planned a cover-up, giving the soldiers a lot of money to testify that the disciples had stolen the Lord's body, but the fact that it has come to light here shows that man's foolish disguise will always come to light.

While the chief priests, elders, and soldiers were trying to cover up the event of God's tremendous power, some of the Lord's disciples still did not believe. Jesus said to His disciples, "I am the Lord your God, in heaven and on earth. I have given you all authority in heaven and on earth. So He says, "Go, make disciples of them, baptize them, teach them, and I will be with you always, even to the end of the world. The Lord is the One who has all authority. It is clear under whom we are to serve and what commands we are to obey. The Lord is always with us. Without fear we go out and ask to meet those who will be His disciples.

We will celebrate Pentecost the Sunday after next, and here I would like to talk about Pentecost. It is the 50th day after the festival of the first ears of barley (the Sunday after the first Sabbath after Passover), and one of the three major Jewish holidays is the festival of Pentecost (7 weeks). (This is the 50th day after the resurrection of the Lord.) It is the time when the barley harvest ends and the wheat harvest begins, and it is the day when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai. The men of Israel were supposed to go before the Lord three times a year, one of which was this festival of Pentecost.

In Acts 1:3 we read.

"After He had suffered, He showed Himself alive by numerous and sure proofs, appearing to them often for forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God."

We can see that the Lord did indeed spend 40 of the 50 days (49 to be exact) between His resurrection and Pentecost with His disciples, appearing to them.

Today we wish to meet the resurrected Jesus from the Gospel of Matthew.

28:1 Now after the Sabbath was ended, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene

and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

28:2 And there was a great earthquake. 28:2 And there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, and rolled away a stone from the side, and sat upon it.

28:3 And his appearance shone as the lightning, and his garments were as white as snow.

28:4 And those who were on guard trembled with fear, and became as dead men.

A great earthquake occurred. It was caused by an angel of the Lord coming down from heaven, rolling a stone there and sitting on it. His appearance shone like lightning, and his garments were white as snow. The strong soldiers who were on guard trembled with fear and could not move as if they were dead.

God can easily defeat any plan of man. But here I think of the chief priests, all ready to go. At the end of Matthew 27, we find this conversation

27:62 The next day was the day after the day of preparation, and on that day the chief priests, the Pharisees, gathered themselves together to Pilate, saying

27:63 "Chief, I remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said, 'After three days I will rise again.

27:64 Therefore, sassa him to guard the tomb until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may come and steal him away and tell the people, 'Jesus has risen from the dead. Then everyone will be deceived even worse than before.

27:65 Pilate said to them, "There are watchmen; go and let them watch as long as they can.

27:66 So they went and sealed the stone, and set a watchman to guard the tomb.

When the Lord's disciples came back saying that the women had seen an empty tomb, they completely forgot Jesus' words and dismissed it as nonsense, but the chief priests and Pharisees were hoping that Pilate, the governor, would send out the mighty Roman soldiers to take action. The disciples of the Lord, who should have believed in Him, were in the wind, and the chief priests were on high alert for the event, which should have been guarded by elite soldiers with the prestige of leaders, but they were easily defeated.

28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. 28:5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified,

28:6 He is not here any more. He is risen, just as He said He would be. Now look at the place where he was stored.

28:7 And go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead. Behold, he will go

before you into Galilee. Behold, He is going before you into Galilee, and there you will meet Him. This is what I say to you.

28:8 So the women were afraid but overjoyed, and they hurried away from the tomb and ran to inform the disciples.

28:9 And Jesus met them, and said, "Peace be to you;" and they drew near and worshiped His feet.

28:10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell your brothers to go to Galilee, where they will meet me.

It must have been a startling event for those who planned to resist God, but the angel's words to those who believed in Him were, "Do not be afraid. Then Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be to you," as we read in the other Gospels. The only thing that is new here is that he tells them to go to Galilee. In the Gospel of Luke, He tells us to stay in the city until we are covered by the power from on high. However, this "go to Galilee" seems to refer to the mountain in Galilee where they ascended to hear the Lord's Great Commission today, so there does not seem to be a contradiction.

28:11 While the women were gone, some of the watchmen returned to the city and told the chief priests the whole affair.

28:12 And the chief priests gathered together with the elders to confer, and they gave the men of war much money,

28:13 "Say, 'His disciples came in the middle of the night and stole him while we slept.

28:14 And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will preach it to him, so that you will not be troubled.

28:15 So they took the money and did as they were taught. And this story has spread among the Jews to this day.

The fact that they do not punish the soldiers who fail to protect them, but give them lots of money to keep their mouths shut, is what shows their inconsistency. The fact that these secret conversations leak out also shows that one's cover-ups, no matter how complete they may appear to have been, ultimately fail to work.

27:63 "Mr. Secretary, I remember that when that impostor was still alive, he said, 'After three days I will rise again.

27:64 Therefore, sassa him so that he will guard the tomb until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may come and steal him away and tell the people, 'Jesus has risen from the dead. Then everyone will be deceived even worse than before.

It was completely unnecessary for the disciples to come and steal the Lord's body to prove His resurrection. Before that, none of the disciples thought that because the Lord had said, "After three days I will rise again," we would remove His body from the tomb and make it known to the world.

The world of faith, the world of biblical faith, does not require any attempt by us to prove God's righteousness by our own wisdom or efforts, but works beyond the human knowledge of foolish people who lack understanding and fail to weigh the depth and truth of the Lord's words, so that what God has promised will not go unfulfilled, not one jot or tittle of what He has promised will go unfulfilled. We are informed of God's truth that what He has promised will not go unfulfilled, and that this is the faith in the God who created the world that we believe in the Bible, which envelops us and protects and guides us.

On the other hand, the chief priests, the scribes, and the kings of the Jews were probably people who were always and forever busy building up authority with their own hands, flaunting their own power, bringing people to their knees, and gaining respect and attention.

John 15:15 I will no longer call you servants. I no longer call you servants, for I do not know what my master is doing. I have called you friends. 15:16 For I have made known to you all that I have heard from my Father.

15:16 Ye have not chosen me: I have chosen you. 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I have set you up. 15:17 And I have chosen you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain for ever; and that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

28:16 Now the eleven disciples went into Galilee and ascended the mountain to which Jesus had commanded them to go.

That nostalgic place in Galilee where they had slept and risen with the Lord, the disciples were reunited with the Lord again, probably on the mountain where they had prayed early in the morning.

Luke 6:12 About this time Jesus went to the mountain to pray, and He prayed to God all night long.

Matthew 5:1 When Jesus saw this crowd, He went up on the mountain and sat down, and His disciples came near to Him.

Matthew 14:23 And when He had dismissed the crowd, He went up the mountain secretly to pray. When evening came, He was there alone.

Mark 14:26 And after they had sung a song, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Gethsemane Prayer)

28:17 And they met Jesus and worshipped him. But there were some who doubted.

But there were some who still could not believe that He was the Lord, even at this time.

28:18 Jesus approached them and said, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

Our Lord Jesus is the One who has been given all authority by God the Father.

He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, meaning that He is not to be compared to any other angel or creature.

God the Father is, of course, the Creator of all things, who has all authority in heaven and on earth, but how could God take the Son, the One who was from the beginning, who is with God, and by whom nothing was created that was not created by Him, and give Him birth in the same form as man, crucify Him, bury Him to death, and raise Him from the dead? He is the one who gives us all authority once again.

It was God's plan for us human beings. God sent His Son to us as a man, exactly like us, to take our place. Although Jesus still had all the authority as fully God, he did not do it with his own hands because he was fully man, but was sent and submitted to the will of God, He is sending us too.

28:19 Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

Therefore, we need to go out. And make all nations His disciples. We are to point them to the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth, regardless of their language, culture, or religious background. He told them to be His disciples, baptize them, and command them to observe all that He has commanded them.

This is because it is the highest and best happiness for us to live according to the words of the Lord Jesus, who is the authority. It is our way of life and our life.

The Lord is always with us, even to the end of the world. He will encourage, protect, and lift us up with His great authority. We do not lift Him up by our own strength, but He lifts us up by His power, and we are called daily to receive power, wisdom, and all things to do good and to do God's work, so we desire to go forward believing without fear.

John 14:12 I say to you well and truly, whoever believes in Me will also believe in Me. He who believes in me will also do the works that I am doing. Not only that, but he will do greater deeds. For I am going to the Father.

John 20:21 Jesus also said to them, "Rest! As the Father hath sent me, even so will I send you.

20:22 And having said this, He breathed on them, saying, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit, and ye shall know the truth.

20:23 Whose sins ye forgive, they are forgiven; and whose sins ye leave unforgiven, they remain.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. We are reminded of the power of our God from the Bible. How shallow are man's vain attempts at deception in comparison. The soldiers, seeing the power of the angel of the Lord up close, were so terrified that they trembled and became like the dead. They joined the chief priests' subsequent maneuvers at one time, but they could not continue to resist God's mighty power. Our Lord Jesus is the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth. Obeying His righteous commands removes fear from us and gives us peace. Please bring all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.