

before doing the actual work.

I. The Women's Discovery, 1-3.

Vs. 1-3. *First day of the week*; the day after the Jewish Sabbath, which became the Christian Lord's Day, as commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. *Very early*. When it was barely light enough for them to see (John 20 : 1), they hurried away to perform the last service of love. *Bringing the spices*; liquid perfumes for anointing the body (see ch. 23 : 56). *Stone rolled away*. Compare Mark 16 : 3, 4. *They entered in*. The body which they expected to find and anoint was not there. *The Lord Jesus*. The only place in the Gospels where this combination of names is found, although it constantly occurs in the Epistles. It reveals the new outlook which the resurrection introduces. As risen, Jesus is Lord, but He is still the Jesus who lived among men.

II. The Angels' Message, 4-7.

Vs. 4-7. *Much perplexed*. The sight of the empty grave bewildered them. *The men . . . in shining garments*. Their appearance showed the perplexed women that they were not ordinary men. *Afraid . . . bowed . . . to the earth*. The vision of these angelic beings filled them with fear, so that they were compelled to turn away their faces. *Why seek ye, etc.?* Literally, "the living one in the company of the dead." Perhaps there is a suggestion of reproach in the words, as if

the women ought to have known that their Lord would rise again. *He is not here, but is risen*; the glorious Easter message, the inspiration of all our hopes. *Remember how he spake*. Jesus had told His disciples, first after Peter's great confession (Matt. 16 : 21), and subsequently, on several occasions, that He would triumph over death. *The Son of man . . . rise again*. Almost the very words reported in Matthew 17 : 23 and parallel passages.

III. The Disciples' Amazement, 8-12.

Vs. 8, 9. *They remembered his words*. The resurrection brought a new light to bear on many of the sayings of Jesus. (Compare John 14 : 26.) *Returned from the sepulchre*; fear and joy struggling for mastery in their hearts, Matt. 28 : 8. *Told . . . the eleven, and . . . all the rest*. After the crucifixion, those followers of Jesus, who did not belong to the band of the apostles, had evidently associated themselves closely with them.

Vs. 10, 11. *Words . . . idle tales*; "nonsense". The expression shows how little prepared His own followers were for the resurrection of Jesus.

V. 12. *Peter ran unto the sepulchre*; accompanied by John (see John 20 : 3-10). *Stooping down*; "peering in". *Linen clothes laid by themselves*; without the body. *Wondering*; for clearly the body had not been carried away, else the grave-clothes would have been taken with it.

FOR TEACHERS OF THE LITTLE ONES

Lesson Subject—The risen Saviour.

Introduction—The children will tell you of the rabbits and Easter chickens and eggs they have received. We are going to hear a story about some eggs (show some Easter eggs, and a bird's nest, if possible). Two little birds had a nest in the bushes in the garden. Julia found the nest, and in it were some speckled eggs, one, two, three, four; but she did not trouble the nest, or frighten the dear little birds. One day some time after, she ran down to the garden to have a peep at the little speckled eggs. Instead of the beautiful eggs there were only broken empty shells! "Oh!" she said, picking out the pieces, "the beautiful eggs are all spoiled and broken!" "No, Julia", replied her brother, "they are not spoiled;

the best part of them has taken wings and flown away". (Explain.) So it is when any one dies. The body left behind is only an empty shell, while the soul (the best part) has taken wings and flown away to God.

Easter Story—Tell the story.

Golden Text—Print, "But now is Christ risen from the dead." (Repeat.)

My Verse—(Repeat)

"Christ is risen!
Christ is risen!
Earth and heaven join to say;
Light now shines
On death's dark prison,
And the stone is rolled away.
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

On this glorious Easter day."

Something to Think About—I shall live again.