

the tomb in Joseph's garden. Their hearts were full of the awful scene on Calvary. They wonder if he saw them as they stood there that day so weak and helpless. They grow reminiscent as they walk and are sad, as people are apt to do when visiting the grave of a very dear friend. They tell what Jesus said one day and what he did, how he came into their lives as no one else had ever done. Although we have no divine record of what the women talked about that morning, we are sure that Mrs. Blewett cannot be far astray in her interpretation. What did Mary find when she reached the sepulchre, and what did she do? (Vs. 1, 2.)

1. *Peter and John at the Sepulchre*, vs. 3-10. Bring out that Mary's message was a sensational one which sent these two disciples as fast as they could run to Joseph's garden. Question the class about their experience that morning at the tomb. Why was it that the disciples did not anticipate the resurrection, when Jesus had spoken of it to them so plainly? (See Matt. 20 : 19.) It was difficult for the human heart to grasp so wonderful a thought. Bring out that some of God's thoughts are so large that it takes a good deal of schooling to get them into our hearts. How long it takes us to learn that divine discipline is a good thing for us.

2. *Mary at the Sepulchre*, vs. 11-16. Why did Mary return to the sepulchre? She came back to the grave to weep there. Bring out that Mary's were mistaken tears. She was weeping because the grave was empty. What if the grave had not been empty? Bring out that ours are often mistaken tears. What explanation of her tears does she give to the angels? Dwell upon Christ's revelation of himself to this loving heart. Why did she not recognize Jesus at once? How did the revelation come to her? Note that it comes as a great surprise to us sometimes to know that it is Jesus who is speaking to us through a friend or through some event in our daily life. We must keep a listening ear for the divine voice.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

For to-day's lesson, the teacher should concentrate his attention upon the fact of the resurrection, and should assist the boys and

girls to some realization of its meaning to the disciples, to the world, and to ourselves. The resurrection is at the very centre of Christian faith. No time should be wasted in attempting explanations of how it occurred, or the appearance of Jesus, or other interesting but important details. Centre upon the historical fact, and the great results from it which history has made abundantly clear.

To serve as an introduction, one of the scholars might bring, or the teacher might provide, a picture of a mission hospital in India or China or Korea. He might tell you something of the relief from suffering such hospitals are bringing to the people. The class will tell you that our medical workers have gone far from home into non-Christian lands with their ministry of healing because Jesus rose from the dead and is alive forever more.

1. Bring out clearly, however, that the aggressive optimism of the sincere Christian of to-day did not always prevail. The scholars will recall for you the desertion of the disciples at the time of Jesus' arrest. Help them to realize the despondency of the Eleven at the seeming disappointment of all their hopes; their complete despair during the trial, the crucifixion, and the days when Jesus' body was lying in the tomb. If Jesus had not risen, what would the disciples have done? Would they have preached faith in Jesus as the Saviour, to the Jews, the Greeks, and the Romans? Would they not have gone back to their fishing nets and their labors, with the memory of a wonderful companion, but broken-hearted in the wreck of all their hopes?

The scholars will tell you, from Luke 24 : 11, that the disciples were not expecting the resurrection of Jesus. They had forgotten what the priests remembered (see John 20 : 9 ; Matt. 27 : 62, 63). Bring out, through the story in to-day's lesson, the slowness with which the disciples realized what had happened. Even Mary Magdalene could not believe it for a time in the very presence of her master! Point out how this gradual conviction, the change from despair to hope, from inaction to an aggressive preaching after the ascension, of Christ as the Saviour, is the strongest proof that Jesus really rose from the dead.