

The Stone Has Been Removed!

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. Mark 16:4

Early on resurrection Sunday a few ladies visited the tomb of Jesus and were amazed at what they saw. They saw that the stone that was in front of the tomb of Jesus has been rolled away. The scripture brings out another fact- **it was very great**. Before Jesus could come out of that tomb of death and ascend to the Father where He would present His own blood on the Heavenly mercy seat this great stone would have to be rolled away. It is important to know that no man rolled this stone away. Heaven moved this stone out of its way. What is the significance of this stone? This stone represented God's law that was written upon tables of stone. Many do not realize just how great of a barrier the law was between God and mankind and receiving His blessings. **It was very great!**

2Co 3:3 *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

The Greek word for "stone" here is the word **lithos**. It is the same Greek word used in Mark 16.4 for the stone that covered the tomb of Jesus. Why was this stone blocking the resurrection of Jesus a type of the Law? Because God sent the Law to reveal to man his sinful state and to proclaim that man was dead because of that sin. God did not send the law to make bad people good. He sent the law to show that Jesus came to make dead people live! He sent the Law to proclaim our death so that God would make us live through Jesus. The law is good, perfect, and holy, but the law came to condemn us and show that we were spiritually dead so that we would seek life in one place- **The grace of Jesus!**

2Co 3:7 But if the **ministry of death**, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading *as* it was,

2Co 3:9 For if the **ministry of condemnation** has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

Notice that the law is called the ministry of death and the ministry of condemnation! The law was sent to condemn us and proclaim that we were dead because of sin. It was sent to teach about redemption found only in Jesus. What separated us from God is not sin directly, but it was the Law. The Law held us in a prison of condemnation and death. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23) and the strength of sin is the law. (1 Cor. 15:56) Before Jesus could give us new life He had to first satisfy the law and remove it for good. Jesus did just that in His perfect life and perfect death. Jesus lived a sinless life under the law for us! He died as God's perfect sacrifice to pay for the transgression of God's holy law that

we broke. On the cross there was a divine exchange. Jesus became what we were so that by faith we would become what He was, which was totally righteous. He became our sin and we become His righteousness. Jesus removed the law by completely fulfilling it for us! All the rules were kept and God's standards were met in the perfect life of Jesus, and now that life is offered to us freely. This is what you received when you got saved! You received eternal life. You received justification of life! You no longer have to try to be right in your actions to deserve anything from God. Jesus earned it for you by His perfect life and obedience to God. (Rom. 5:19)

Once Jesus paid for all the transgressions against God's law, then the stone was forever removed and Jesus came out in resurrection power. When He came out so did we because He did it all for us and as us! His righteous life is now the life in our spirits. We are forgiven and have Jesus' righteousness. We need not to try any longer to deserve any of God's blessings by our performance for God. Jesus performed for God and forever has qualified us to partake in all the blessings of Heaven! (Col. 1:12) The only qualification to enjoy the New Covenant is to simply trust in his grace. Grace is unmerited favor and blessings. The only thing we must do to qualify to receive grace is to be not deserving. Trying to merit God's blessing by our performance and receiving unmerited favor does not mix! They are direct opposites! In ourselves we are not deserving! The problem comes when we try to become so, even if it is by trying to believe hard enough for His blessings! But **in Jesus** we are deserving! Jesus is deserving because He is perfect and fulfilled God's perfect Law for us. We are deserving because we are in Him. His obedience was what was needed for God to bless us. The only obedience God can accept is the obedience of faith! (Romans 1:5, 16:26) The great stone of God has been rolled away!

Mat 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone (Gr, lithos)?

Mat 7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Mat 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Notice that if we ask God for bread, He does not give us a stone. Bread speaks of spiritual blessings. Jesus is the bread of life. Healing is called the children's bread. (Matt. 15:26) Bread even today is used to speak of finances. If you ask for spiritual bread God will not give you a stone. God will not give us the law to keep in order to earn it! He does not give you a list of do's and don'ts you have to perform perfectly before He gives it to you. Jesus has removed the demands of the Law from you, because He fulfilled the Law perfectly for you! Fish also is a symbol of blessings that come from being saved. God is free to bless you because He became the curse of the law for you (the serpent)! (Gal 3:13) God will not give you the curse because Jesus took it! You are now children of God and he is your Heavenly Father. This relationship was established when Jesus

fulfilled the law by His death. After Jesus rose from the dead he said to His disciples, "I go to My Father **and your Father**"! (Jn. 20:17)

Jesus' miracle of the **loaves (bread) and fishes** is recorded in all four gospels. This was to show the grace of the Lord Jesus and His heart to bless us and feed us with all we need. In all four accounts it was suggested by the disciples that the food be **purchased**. Jesus said, **No!** I want to **give** it to them. He was saying, "I want to be the source of all they need! They have no need to purchase my blessings! I want to give it to them."

Mat 4:3 **And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones (Gr. Lithos) be made bread.**

Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread. He wanted Jesus to turn the law into the source of blessing and salvation. Satan knew the law was his secret weapon to keep mankind in death. Jesus refused do it! Therefore, you should not try to do it. Do not try to turn the law into your bread!

Jesus is the bread of life and Jesus is the fulfillment of the law for you. You cannot do anything to qualify to be healed, be prospered, or to have any other thing God has. Do not try to turn the stones into bread. Jesus freely offers it to you right now because He has removed the great stone that stood in the way! Just trust that He did it and He will give to you freely from His awesome and loving heart!

Confession: Lord Jesus, I praise you that you were mighty enough to remove that great stone from the tomb of my life. I thank you that I am no longer under the bondage of performing for you because you performed for me. I thank you that you are my bread of life. You are the source of forgiveness, healing, prosperity, peace, wholeness, and every blessing. Thank you for offering yourself freely to me because of your great love. Jesus you are so worthy of all God's blessings and I am so thankful I am in you and you share it all with me! I am blessed! I am free! I am loved! Praise to the lamb of God forever!!