

Women at the resurrection (Jesus' Resurrection is for everyone) **Outline of Narrative reflection**

Why? Why did God choose to reveal Jesus' resurrection to us first? Us women? In law our witness statement does even count.

God could have chosen anybody – somebody with status, power, someone whose word would count, somebody who would be listened to.

But he chose us – us women.

He chose us to be the first people to truly realise that Jesus is indeed the son of the living God who died and rose again on the third day, just as he told us

Allowing us to be the first that was shocking at the time. And yet as I reflect on it – that was Jesus all over really. He refused to be bound by convention – especially religiosity that belittles people and put them down.

Take the family he was born into – His mother Mary – simple, ordinary. And when she speaks about Jesus' birth –there were the Magi with their expensive gifts but there were also the simple shepherds

Chose to be surrounded by fishermen,

Tax collectors

And then the woman at the well – the woman who was bleeding, the woman with adultery

And the unclean woman – the one who was bleeding – none of us would have gone near her – but Jesus he spoke to her so kindly – and made her well

And she wasn't the only unclean one -

Jesus touched a leper

And then there was the centurion – a hated Roman and a man in a privileged position and yet when he showed faith, when he acknowledged Jesus' power and authority Jesus told us all that no-one in Israel had such faith.

Then he said there will be many from the east and west in the kingdom of heaven.

And we saw it on Friday – it was a foreigner – an African who carried Jesus' cross

Simon of Cyrene – not even a Jew

The thief on the cross – a criminal...

With Jesus it wasn't about what you were - it was about putting your faith in Jesus – in trusting and believing that he truly was all he claimed to be.

And now in these years since Jesus has returned to his father we find that Paul – Paul the educated Pharisee, even he has been chosen and accepted.

And it's just like the prophet Joel said God's Spirit has been poured out on all – men and women, both slave and free – He doesn't even differentiate between Greek and Jew – God is for everybody.

And so somehow we shouldn't have been surprised it was us – mere women - who were first to witness the miracle of the resurrection – it was just like Jesus. He was making it clear – God was making it clear - Jesus' death, Jesus' resurrection – is for everyone whoever you are.

He rose for me and he rose for you. Whoever we are we need never be separated from God's love.

Christ Jesus is the one who died--more than that, who was raised--who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Rom 8:34-39)