

Matthew 28:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Analysis

Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me. Jesus's first words to the women are 'Be not afraid' (Μὴ φοβεῖσθε/Mē phobeisthe)—the same comfort the angel offered (verse 5). Christ calms their fears, assuring them of His favor and kindness. Though they worship Him rightly, they need not cower in terror. The risen Christ is still the gentle Shepherd who knows His sheep and speaks tenderly to them.

Jesus commissions them: 'go tell' (ὑπάγετε ἀπαγγείλατε/hypagete apangeilate)—double imperative emphasizing the command. The resurrection must be proclaimed. Christianity is inherently evangelistic; good news demands sharing. These women become the first preachers of resurrection, though cultural norms deemed women's testimony unreliable. God's kingdom overthrows worldly hierarchies.

'My brethren' (τοῖς ἀδελφοῖς μου/tois adelphois mou)—remarkable designation! Despite the disciples' abandonment, denial, and cowardice during Jesus's arrest and trial, He calls them 'brethren.' This demonstrates Christ's unfailing love and the restoration He offers to failing followers. He does not disown them but affirms relationship. Having 'tasted death for every man' (Hebrews 2:9), He is 'not ashamed to call them brethren' (Hebrews 2:11).

The instruction to meet in Galilee (repeated from the angel's message) ensures the disciples will gather in a specific place at a specific time for Jesus's post-

resurrection teaching and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). God's sovereign plan unfolds precisely; nothing is random or accidental. The risen Christ orchestrates events according to His eternal purpose.

Historical Context

Jesus's reference to the disciples as 'my brethren' after their spectacular failures illustrates the gospel of grace. Peter had denied Jesus three times (Matthew 26:69-75); all had fled (Matthew 26:56). By worldly logic, Jesus should have recruited new, more faithful followers. Instead, He restores the fallen, demonstrating that His kingdom is built not on human merit but on divine grace and calling.

Galilee's selection as meeting place fulfilled Jesus's prediction in Matthew 26:32: 'After I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.' Every detail of redemptive history unfolds according to divine foreknowledge and plan. God's word never fails.

The disciples' journey from Jerusalem to Galilee (about 80-100 miles, requiring several days' travel) would allow time for the resurrection news to spread and for them to process these astounding events. During this period, Jesus appeared multiple times (Luke 24:13-49, John 20:19-29), progressively convincing them of His resurrection and preparing them for their apostolic mission.

Early church tradition holds that all the apostles except Judas Iscariot (who had committed suicide, Matthew 27:5) received restoration and commissioning. Even 'doubting Thomas' who initially refused to believe became a missionary tradition places in India, dying as a martyr. Christ's restoration is complete and effective.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus calling the failed disciples 'my brethren' encourage us when we have sinned, failed, or denied Christ through our words or actions?
2. What does the recurring theme of 'go tell' throughout this passage teach us about the church's evangelistic mission and individual believers' responsibility to testify to Christ?
3. Why is it significant that Jesus personally appeared to the women rather than only sending angelic messengers—what does this reveal about His care for His people?

Interlinear Text

τότε	λέγει	αὐταῖς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	Μὴ	φοβεῖσθε·	ὑπάγετε
Then	said	unto them	G3588	Jesus	not	Be	they go
G5119	G3004	G846		G2424	G3361	G5399	G5217
ἀπαγγείλατε	τοῖς	ἀδελφοῖς	μου	ἵνα	ἀπέλθωσιν	εἰς	τὴν
tell	G3588	brethren	my	that	go	into	G3588
G518		G80	G3450	G2443	G565	G1519	
Γαλιλαίαν	κάκεῖ	με	ὄψονται				
Galilee	and there	me	shall they see				
G1056	G2546	G3165	G3700				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:29 (Parallel theme): For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

John 20:17 (References Jesus): Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Matthew 28:5 (References Jesus): And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 14:27 (References Jesus): But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Matthew 28:7 (Parallel theme): And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

Mark 16:7 (Parallel theme): But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Matthew 25:40 (Parallel theme): And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:45 (Parallel theme): Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

John 6:20 (Parallel theme): But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid.