

Jesus Will Touch Us Monday in the Easter Octave March 28, 2016 8:15 AM
Acts 2:14, 22-23; **Mt 28:8-15** (The resurrection of Christ changes the way we live and what we live for, but it doesn't take us away from our responsibilities.)

This is a curious story about how the soldiers went to the chief priests and said what happened, because **the chief priests don't seem to be amazed at all**. And then **they fabricate this story about the body being stolen**. We have to be very clear that the empty tomb itself doesn't mean anything, and **if the stone was rolled back, it was rolled back so the people could see in, not so that Jesus could emerge**. He didn't need to move stones. his resurrected body did not obey the laws of physics as we understand them. To put it in modern physical terms, it didn't have a magnetic field, so he could appear in the upper room even with the doors barred. Well, then he could have emerged from the tomb as well. So if the stone was rolled back, it was so the disciples could see in. But again, **the emptiness of the tomb is not important**.

What is important is that **Jesus appeared to the women** who were hurrying back. Now what does he tell them to say? He says, **"Go tell my disciples,"** and this is Matthew saying this. Matthew says, "Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee." Go home. Don't stay around Jerusalem. Go home. **Resume your life and I'll catch up with you there**.

Now we know from John that Jesus appeared in the upper room, or at least that's what John says. I have no reason to doubt it. John was at least getting information from the beloved disciple. But this statement Matthew has is still very important because what it is saying is **we have to go back to life**. The resurrection of Christ changes everything, and yet we have to go back to life and to our work and to our normal lives **and to our responsibilities**. It doesn't change things that way. **It changes things from within**. It changes the way we live and what we live for, but it doesn't take us away from our responsibilities to family, our responsibilities to the world, to society. In fact, it enhances them. So "Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee," with the implication get back to work, which was fishing for most of them, "and there I will see them."

So Jesus accompanies us—we are the disciples—as we return to work, as we return to home, as we return to our ordinary lives, **he will visit us in different ways. He will touch us, and we have to be ready and open**.