

Matthew 28:8

So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Way back in the day, they used to have what were called milk trucks. What they did was deliver milk, cheese, eggs and other dairy products to peoples homes. It was not like today where you order something online and it is delivered within an hour to you. No, there was a paper form that you would fill out, letting the delivery man know what you wanted, and what day to deliver it. The order was then delivered early in the morning on the day you specified, and they would leave your milk, and eggs and cheese etc. on your doorstep, because back in the day, people did not steal things that were delivered from peoples porches. But once the milk and eggs and cheese was delivered, it was up to the person who got it, to determine what he or she would do with it, it was not up to the delivery man to tell them what to do with it.

That's the same thing that happens when the word of God is presented to people. I teach these devotionals during the week, and a weekly bible study, and it's up to the reader what they do with it, not me. They can either read it and ignore what it says, or they can chose not to even read it at all. Or they can read it and share it with others or read it and apply it to their own life. Same is true when you go to church and listen to the message, it's up to you what you do with God's word that is presented to you, not the pastor.

If you have a bible in your home or even a bible app on your phone, tablet, computer (BTW they are free apps) then the word of God has been delivered to you and is waiting on your doorstep (so to speak), and is waiting for you to pick it up and do something with it. Or you can let it just sit there and collect dust or have it on the last screen on your phone because you never use it.

In today's devotional verse, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had gone to the tomb and found that Jesus had risen from the dead, and today's verse says that, ***“they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.”*** Simple, they became delivery persons of the good news (the Gospel) of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It was not the responsibility of Mary and Mary to make the disciples believe, in fact if you read the account in Mark it says that,

† *She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.*
Mark 16:10-11

Did you catch that, ***“They did not believe”*** the same disciples that walked with Jesus for three years and heard Jesus tell them that He would die and rise from the dead on the third day, ***“did***

not believe” Even though afterwards we know that they did come to believe when they finally saw Jesus

† *Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. Mark 16:14*

But once again, it is not the responsibility of the one delivering the message to tell the people what to do with it, it's each and every person's own responsibility of what they do when they hear God's word.

The milk man can tell his customers how great this milk tastes and different ways it could be used in recipes, but truly it's up to the person who receives the milk to decide what they will do with it. They can drink it and find that it does taste great or use it in recipes and make more wonderful food with it, or just let it sit there and go sour and rot so it's no use to them anymore.

Same is true with God's word, you can deliver it to others and tell them how great it is and how they can apply it to their lives, but it's up to the person whether they enjoy it as it was intended to be used, or ignore it and let it have no effect on their life.

But the same is true when God's word is taught to us as believers, we can either apply it to our lives, or just ignore it, letting it go to waste.

† *Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. Acts 13:46*

† *We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. 2 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT2)*

† *Jesus replied, "**But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.**" Luke 11:28 (NLT2)*