



SERMON GUIDE

No Limits with Dr. Delman Coates

The Greatest Comeback Of All Time

John 20:1-10

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
Jesus Christ orchestrated the greatest comeback in the history of the world. And there is no event in history more memorable and none more life-changing. And as we read the story of His comeback, we can learn so much about what it will take for Him to help us with the comeback we've been waiting for in our own lives. So in light of that, we are going to look at three things that need to happen if we want to experience a God-sized comeback.	
KEY POINTS	
1. We Must Be Willing To Stay In The Fight Each of the four gospel writers paints a portrait of that mournful scene after the death and burial of our Lord. We learn that it was dark, early dawn, the sabbath was over, and the women who followed Jesus came back to anoint the body of Jesus that had just been laid in a tomb.	
Now, I need you to try for a moment to put yourselves in their shoes. They had just witnessed the most gruesome death one can imagine, and not just of anybody. They witnessed the crucifixion of their leader. And yet, in the midst of their disappointments, in spite of their tremendous pain, and despite seeing their leader die an ignominious death, they came to the tomb to fulfill their spiritual duty and obligation.	
Rather than giving up and throwing in the towel, they stayed in the fight. They could have given up. They could have gone home. They could have thrown up their hands in resignation. But they did not. They stayed. And because they stayed, we can stand today. If we want to experience a comeback, we must be willing to stay in the fight.	
2. We Need The Right Friends When I think about this idea of the right friends, I get stuck at the tomb on that first Easter morning. It was a scene not witnessed by individuals, but by groups. Luke's gospel says that at the scene were, "Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and a host of other women."	

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John's gospel says that when Peter ran to the tomb he was with the beloved disciple, believed to be John. Two different groups of witnesses at the tomb received their breakthrough and the revelation of resurrection.	NOTES
This did not happen because they came by themselves, but because they were partnered with the right people. That suggests to me that our ability to make it through life's challenges, to make it past moments that threaten us, and to heal from life's traumas are related to who we are connected to.	
If you want a real breakthrough, make sure you have the right friends and people around you.	
3. We Must Realize That Our Situation Is Not Final Many people thought that the crucifixion was an indication of loss and defeat. In their minds, the blood, the nail-pierced hands, and the burial on Friday was a sign of disaster. The suffering and shame, the death and grief meant the movement was over.	
What they missed was that Jesus was not saying "it is finished" as in His death was the end. He was saying that His purpose on earth was finished, that the power of sin and death was finished.	
Jesus' situation on the cross was not final because, on the third day, He would be raised from the dead. Jesus Christ is celebrated, not mourned, because His situation on the cross was not final, and neither is your current situation. It is not final. God still has more for you. It's time to believe that, though right now it is difficult, it is not the end. Your situation is not final!	

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. When was a time you didn't stay in the fight and gave up when your circumstances got too hard? What would you do differently in that situation if you could go back?
- 2. Do you have the right friends in your life? Or are your friends resisting the changes you want to make?

3.	How does the fact that Jesus' death wasn't final give you hope that your current situation isn't the end of the road?
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