

## 復活節最終的話事權 THE FINAL WORD AT EASTER

在耶穌被釘十字架和復活的故事裡最後的幾個主角在許多事情上意見不一，但他們卻一致認為耶穌的故事結束了。

Several of the main characters in the crucifixion and resurrection story of Jesus did not agree about much of anything, but they did agree about this: the story of Jesus was over.

彼拉多相信在他的轄區內，他在所有事情上有最終話事權，那是羅馬帝國內動盪不安的一個地方，不過，雖然處境艱難，但彼拉多向來擁有無上權威；若果他認為犧牲一個無辜的人能維持安定，他就會這麼做。他交出耶穌，釘祂在十字架上，這常見的十字架行刑戲碼就是在他的命令下上演；聽到耶穌的死訊後，彼拉多向宗教領袖發出最後的指示：「彼拉多說：你們有看守的兵，去吧！盡你們所能的把守妥當。」（馬太福音 27:65）耶穌的墓實際上有三重鎖：在前面有一塊大石頭、一道官印作出權威的警告，與及由武裝警衛看守，防止有人搗亂；彼拉多肯定他自己在耶穌的故事上有最終決定權。

Pontius Pilate believed he was the final word on all things that happened in his region. It was a troubled part of the Roman world but, despite the challenging situation, Pilate was accustomed to having unquestioned authority. If he decided an innocent man needed to die to keep the peace, so be it. He handed Jesus over to be crucified, and the oft-practised theatre of killing on a cross was performed on his orders. Later, after hearing of Jesus' death, Pilate issued his final instructions to the religious leaders. 'Take a guard,' Pilate answered. 'Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how' (Matthew 27:65). There was essentially a triple lock on Jesus' tomb: a large stone was rolled in front, an official seal served as a powerful warning and armed guards watched to ensure that no one interfered. Pilate was certain that he was the final authority on the story of Jesus.

耶穌的母親馬利亞明白到看著摯愛受苦的痛苦，她看到敵對耶穌的勢力日漸龐大，每天都會擔心有可怕的事發生；最終，這些有權勢的敵人起來攻擊耶穌。耶穌被捕後，自然會有拷打、用刑和受辱的傳聞，她會是多麼無助，知道自己兒子經歷這些苦楚會多麼心碎，馬利亞會想用自己生命去換取祂的生命，但這是不可能的；作為祂的母親能做的只有站在旁邊等到痛苦終結，讓祂不會獨自面對最後這些痛苦的時刻；在耶穌抽最後一口氣時，她就站在十字架旁（約翰福音 19:25）。滿懷悲傷，馬利亞確定祂痛徹心扉的死亡就是耶穌故事的最終章。

Mary, mother of Jesus, understood the anguish of seeing a loved one suffer. She watched as opposition to Jesus grew, and she would have worried day after day that something terrible would happen. Eventually, the powerful enemies of Jesus moved against him. Following his arrest, rumours probably circulated about the beatings, the torture and the humiliation he was enduring. She would have felt so helpless, so broken to know that her son was experiencing such pain. Mary would have given her own life to save his, but that was not possible. The best his mother could do was to stand close by until the bitter end, not wanting him to face those final painful moments alone. She was there, near the Cross, as Jesus took his last breath (John 19:25). Filled with despair, Mary was certain that his excruciating death was the final chapter of the story of Jesus.

彼得知道他的服事要結束了，實際上他就知道會變成這樣。畢竟他不只一次、兩次不認主，而是三次，在耶穌最需要他的時候，他頹然倒下；雞啼後，他想起耶穌的話「雞啼前彼得會三次不認耶穌」在失敗中他抱頭痛哭（馬太福音 26:75）。彼得從沒試過如此絕望，儘管曾答應他的朋友兼老師，即使別人離棄祂，他絕對不會，但只需一個不氣餒的婢女就使他瓦解崩潰。因為否認了耶穌，彼得失去了過去三年來成為他的生命及喜樂的服事；朋友在十字架上公開受刑，加上他多番否認是祂的門徒，彼得相信他在耶穌的故事裡所佔的篇幅現在結束了。

Peter knew his ministry was over and, in truth, he knew it deserved to be. After all, he had denied Jesus, not once, not twice, but three times. Right when Jesus needed him the most, he had failed miserably. After the cock crowed, and Peter remembered Jesus' words – that before the cock crows, Peter would disown Jesus three times – he bowed his head in defeat and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:75). Peter had never known utter despair like this. Despite promising his friend and rabbi that even if others denied him, he never would, it had taken only a persistent servant girl to make him unravel and fall apart. In denying Jesus, Peter had lost the ministry that had become his life and joy over the past three years. With his friend's public death on the Cross, combined with his own repeated denial of being one of his disciples, Peter believed his part in the story of Jesus was now over.

但耶穌的故事還未完結。他們每一個都忘記了最重要的一件事：神永遠有最終話事權。  
But the story of Jesus was not over. They each forgot one very important thing: God *always* has the final word.

在第一個復活節早晨，當所有人都以為耶穌的整個故事已經寫完了，天父卻寫下最有力的一章。大石被滾開，官印被解封，警衛被嚇得半死（馬太福音 28:2-4），在在都證明世上沒有任何人或力量能攔阻神最終話事。耶穌復活了，重新活著，也因這有力的事實，一切都改變了。彼拉多和他管轄的一切在神的兒子及祂的跟隨者身上沒有話事權；馬利亞目睹兒子的死亡不是終結，而是神賜予世人值得欽佩的恩典這後續故事的一部份；之後幾天，彼得發現他在否認耶穌後的服事比他所能想像到的更大（約翰福音 21:15-19）。

On that first Easter morning, when everyone assumed that the whole story of Jesus had already been written, the heavenly father wrote the most powerful chapter yet. The large stone was rolled away, the seal was broken and the guards were overcome with fear (Matthew 28:2-4). This all demonstrated that no people or power on earth can prevent God from having the final word. Jesus was risen, alive again, and because of that powerful truth, everything had changed. Pilate and the circumstances he dictated did not have final authority over God's Son or his followers. Mary was able to see her son's death not as the end, but as part of the continuing story of God's compelling grace for humankind. And in the days that followed, Peter discovered that his post-denial ministry would be even greater than he dared hope or imagine (John 21:15-19).

Perhaps you are facing challenging situations in your life right now. Be assured of this: God will have the final word, and no enemy or circumstance can stand against the word of our Almighty God.  
或許你正面臨人生中的挑戰，要確信：神有最終話事權，沒有敵人或處境能阻擋我們全能神的決定。

Perhaps you are facing challenging situations in your life right now. Be assured of this: God will have the final word, and no enemy or circumstance can stand against the word of our Almighty God.

或許你所愛的人正在深深受苦，你自覺不能減輕他們的苦楚或醫治他的傷處，緊記神有最終話事權，祂的決定滿有恩典、盼望和最終勝利。

Perhaps someone you love is suffering deeply, and you feel inadequate to relieve their pain or heal their hurt. Remember, God will have the final word, and that word will be filled with grace, and hope, and ultimate victory.

或許，你會像彼得一樣以為自己不配再被神使用，可能你曾離棄過祂，自以為祂現在已離棄你，要肯定：神有最終話事權，祂的決定是大能的復合與更新，誰知道呢？或許像彼得一樣，你會發現你最有果效的服事還沒到來。

Perhaps, like Peter, you no longer feel worthy to be used by God. Possibly at one time you abandoned him and are convinced he has now abandoned you. Be certain of this: God will have the



final word, and it will be a powerful word of restoration and renewal. And who knows? Perhaps, like Peter, you will discover your most impactful ministry is yet to come.

我為你 and 整個救世軍的祈求，這個復活節向人宣講耶穌的故事還未完，神永遠有最後並必勝的決定權，提醒我們神比任何與祂為敵的人更大，祂的決定帶給心碎和受傷的人大能的恩典和盼望，是復和的話，提醒我們沒有祂恩典救贖不了的罪。

My prayer for you, and for the whole of The Salvation Army, is that this Easter will proclaim anew that the story of Jesus is not over, and that God *always* has the final, victorious word. It will be a triumphant word that reminds us that God is greater than any foe that stands against him. It will be a powerful word of grace and hope for the broken-hearted and hurting. And it will be a restorative word, reminding us that no sin is greater than his redeeming grace.

神有最終話事權，是必勝的！

God will have the final word, and it will be a word of victory!

祝復活節快樂，願神賜福你！

Happy Easter, and God bless you.

Lyndon Buckingham

**General**

白禮頓

大將