

Mark 16:1-14 He Still Moves Stones!

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ²Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

⁸So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Now when *He* rose early on the first *day* of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

{MARK IS GOING TO HIGHLIGHT THE UNBELIEF!

¹²After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.

¹³And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either. ¹⁴Later 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.

So here we have Mark's account of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

A)Greatest week in History and this is the high light – The Culmination.

B)Everything has been heading to this point – this reality – THE RESURRECTION and Paul tells us this is

1) **CENTRAL TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH!**

C)If Jesus is not Risen from the dead – He is just another one of 1,000's that were crucified by Rome – for a cause.

Whatever great things Jesus did and said – the things that He taught – they lose all their weight if He is not risen!

A)They are great ideas and ideals – but that is all they are if He is not Risen from the dead!

B)Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:14 “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty”

C) It Doesn't mean anything!

If Jesus has not risen – there is no point in us being here today – If He isn't risen – why should I be! –

A) Staying home – Sleeping in - Church at 8:30am- watching football —

B)But I am here because He is alive – He lives – I have a relationship with a Risen Savior

1)NOT RELIGION –

Over 2013 Years ago – Jesus was Crucified on a Friday outside the City of Jerusalem. –

A)Placed in a tomb – Sealed with a huge stone – 1 ½ - 2 tons – 3-4,000 lbs.

B)On Sunday the stone was Rolled away – Jesus IS alive HE IS Risen!

A man went on vacation to Israel with his wife and her mother. While in Israel, the mother-in-law died from a heart attack.

The couple went to a local undertaker, who explained that they could either ship the body home which would cost more than \$5,000, or they could bury her right there in the Holy Land for only \$500.

The man said, "We'll ship her home." Surprised, the undertaker responded, "Are you sure?"

That's an awfully big expense, and we can do a very nice burial here."

The man said, "Look, 2000 years ago they buried a guy here and three days later He rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance."

TOLD THAT STORY – YRS AGO – EASTER – Punch line – my mother in law visiting from Oregon

But this is what we must understand – The Resurrection was not about the Place it was about the person! –

Not where he was buried – but Who was Buried!

A) Jesus claimed to be God – He claimed to be the only way to Eternal life!

B) He predicted betrayal -- He predicted His own murder – He predicted his Resurrection

C) They were there when he was betrayed and arrested – they saw him crucified and breath his last

D) HE WAS LAID IN A TOMB – SEALED – HUGE STONE

1) 3 DAYS LATER THE TOMB WAS EMPTY!

E) **THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY!**

1) **THAT IS WHY WE ARE CHRIST FOLLOWERS**

The scene opens with three women approaching the tomb in the early morning hours.

A) They are coming to anoint the body of Jesus -- SABBATH no time to anoint properly -

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week,

First day of the week –

A) Acts 20:7 / 1 Corinthians 16:2 – early church met on the first day of the week and this is why? – when the Resurrection happened

B) Worship everyday – Sunday is a special day – set aside to seek the Lord!

C) Purpose of Saturday night- Provide an opportunity for those who can't attend on Sunday.

So they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

Note the ladies – asked the question – who is going to roll away the stone for us!

A) Not How are we going to do it – but Who –

B) There was an obstacle preventing them from going where they wanted to go and doing what they wanted to do!

C) They asked – WHO IS going to roll away the stone!

D) THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS WHO - **KEEP THAT IN MIND – COME BACK TO THAT**

E) There was also another problem they didn't even know about – but God took care of that one too!

THE fact that these ladies were coming to the tomb – hoping to anoint the body of Jesus tells us they didn't know there was a Roman guard there

A) Had they known they probably would not have come.

B)Matthew tells us that the Pharisees were the ones who went to Pontius Pilate and said to him – when this deceiver was alive –

1)He said that he would rise from the dead after three days – { they remembered that – even though the disciples didn't

C)So the Pharisees said to Pilate: We are afraid that his disciples are going to come and steal the body – claim that he is Risen - -

1) THAT WOULD BE WORSE THAN BEFORE

D)So please appoint a Roman guard to watch the tomb –

1)Pilate was so fed up with them – said – fine have your guard.

Now a Roman guard consisted of 16 soldiers armed with a Sword and Javelin

A)Now if one of those soldiers fell asleep and the commanding officer were to come by and find one asleep – all 16 would be put to death. – Serious code

B)So if you found a guy in your squad asleep – you would not wake him up – but you would light his little red – skirt – tunic on fire

1)That would wake him up real fast and believe me he would never fall asleep again on duty.

C)They also placed the seal of ROME over the tomb

If you broke the seal of Rome –they caught you – you would be Crucified upside down.

A)If they didn't catch you but they knew what town you were from they would go to that city and Crucify everyone in that town!

B)This was the Roman law- They ruled with an iron fist!

C)So had these women known that the Roman guard was there – they would not have come – Pointless.

Now Matthew's gospel account also gives this detail that an Angel from heaven descended down -- rolled away the stone – Sat on it – Chillin

A)But when the guards saw that – they fell over like dead men – trembling – Fled

B)Note: The Stone was not rolled away to let JESUS OUT – HE COULD WALK THROUGH WALLS – HE WAS ALREADY OUT – GONE

C)The Stone was rolled away to let us in – Come and See –

D)The Roman guards freaked out and ran to the Priest – WHERE YOU GO WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT !

Matthews gospel tells us – the Priest bribed them– don't tell anyone about this We will give you a large sum of money- keep quiet

A)If you are questioned – say that the Disciples stole the body while you were ASLEEP

B)If you get in trouble for saying you fell asleep – we will cover for you!

C)So that is exactly the story they told – and it is told to this day!

Problems with that Story

1st – They didn't fall asleep – ROMAN CODE – A WHOLE GUARD OF 16 WOULD NEVER DO THAT!

2nd IF Someone did come and somehow found a way to move a stone that Archeologist – determined – weighed 1 ½ to 2 tons talking 3-4,000 lbs { wouldn't that have woke them up? – Noisy

3rd Even if they somehow did all fall asleep – and stayed asleep thru the moving of the stone – how would they know who stole the body!

A) “We were sleeping – and the disciples came and stole the body.”–

B)How do you know – you were sleeping !

4th – Disciples became Marked men – All would die Martyrs death – because they would not deny the Resurrection!

Studies have been done!

QUOTE: John Singleton Copley, one of the great legal minds in British history and three times High Chancellor of England, wrote, "I know pretty well what evidence is, and I tell you, such evidence as that for the resurrection has never broken down yet."

IF you chose to deny the resurrection, THEN you must deny everything known to man on the basis of historical evidence. We are far more certain that Jesus was raised from the dead than we are that Julius Caesar ever lived.

D) In his book, **Countdown**, Noteworthy Canadian scientist G. B. Hardy has given us some thought-provoking questions about the resurrection.

- 1) *"There are but two essential requirements:*
 - 1. *Has anyone cheated death and proved it?*
 - 2. *Is it available to me?*

E) **Here is the complete record:** Confucius' tomb -- occupied. Buddha's tomb -- occupied. Mohammed's tomb -- occupied. **Jesus' tomb -- empty**

"The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a reality and countless changed lives testify that it's a fact -- not a fable!" G. B. Hardy

The Resurrection of Jesus is so important to us because #1 Death has been defeated!

A) Ever since the fall in the garden – Adam sinned Death entered the world.

B) Death has been man’s chief enemy – Fear death

C) How do you deal with Death?

D) Paul declared: 1 Thessalonians 4:13 **“We mourn, but not as those who have no hope.”**

Last couple of years walked with people in this body as they dealt with loved ones dying – long before ready.

A) Woman – lost her husband – 51 heart attack —

B) Son family in his 30’s a child - Babies –

1) How do you deal with that?

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

C) Because of the Resurrection we know that death is not the end. For the believer in Jesus – Beginning.

1) This life – Prelude – 70,80, 90 if unlucky

D) Eternity is the real story!

1) **This life is like a short walk compared to eternity**

*For the unbeliever – this life is as good as it gets for you
For the believer it is as bad as it gets*

Man from Calvary Chapel Old Bridge – was in the 104th floor of the twin towers on 911 – planes hit – called his teenage son

A) Son I don’t think I am going to make it – they talked on the phone the entire time.

B) That son heard his dad – leading other people to Christ – in that building

C) Stayed on the phone until it went dead – when the building collapsed

How is that bearable, How to deal with that? This is how the Resurrection

Not goodbye dad – goodbye son – but see you later

One day: **RADICAL REUNION!** – Hold each other – Rejoice

The Resurrection reminds us there is Hope for tomorrow!

Colossians 1:27 “Christ in you is the hope of glory!”

A) A man and his son were riding in a car – A bee flew in busing around

B) The Boy was deathly allergic to bee stings – started to freak out.

C)Just then the Dad reached out – caught the bee in his hand – held him for a few minutes –

1)Let go of the bee – Son freaking out again .

D)**Son look – Stinger was in his hand** – Nothing to worry about.

1 Corinthians 15:56 **“Jesus took the sting of death for us!”**

Resurrection is Important because – Tells us

#1 That Death has been defeated

#2 Forgiveness is Possible!

A)Not only is there Hope for tomorrow – there is freedom from my past!

B)Psychologists tell us that a major Problem that people struggle with is guilt! –

C)Bible tells us we feel guilty – because we are guilty

1)Sinners – broken God’s law – feel bad about it.

People try to ignore from feelings of guilt –by indulging in pleasure and entertainment.

A)Anything to distract them from the feelings of guilt and loneliness

B)Some turn to harder things like drugs alcohol – sex –

C)Those things don’t cure the guilt feelings –they only mask the pain – afterwards – ADD TO IT!

D)People LONG TO BE FREE FROM FEELINGS OF GUILT!

1)People Long to be FORGIVEN!

THE CROSS - failures have been dealt with!

A)If Jesus had not risen – we are still in our sins –

B)Resurrection tells us that the Father approved of Christ payment for sin!

C)The Resurrection tells us that Forgiveness is Possible!

1 Corinthians 15:17

17 “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

D)Forgiveness is what people are longing for!

Ernest Hemingway

Tells about a Spanish father who wanted to be reconciled with his runaway son. The despairing father missed his son so much that he placed an advertisement in the local newspaper.

The advertisement read simply, **“Paco, meet me at the Hotel Montana at noon on Tuesday. All is forgiven! Love, Papa.”**

Now Paco is a very common name in Spain—and when the father went to the hotel the next day, there were **eight hundred** young men named Paco waiting for their forgiving fathers!

The Resurrection tells us that true and lasting Forgiveness has been made possible

Our Past has been forgiven – forgotten – CLEAR –

#1 Death has been defeated – Hope for tomorrow

#2 Forgiveness is possible – Past has been forgiven

#3 We have strength for today!

A)JESUS LIVES – FOR ME – WITH ME!

I have STRENGTH FOR TODAY!

B)BACK TO THE QUESTION OF THE WOMEN WHO WILL MOVE THE STONE-

There was a barrier and obstacle that was blocking them from doing what they wanted to do – going where wanted to go

A)They asked Who – Not how are we going to do it?

B)Not Where are those disciples anyway –

1)Not what are we going to do about this – what is the plan.

They said: Who is going to help us?

A) No matter the problem – the obstacle the barrier that you are hope against the answer is also in WHO-

B) LOST YOUR JOB – THE QUESTION IS not How am I going to survive -What do I need to do –

C) Heavy trial - The Answer is Who is going to sustain me – who is going to help!

JESUS YOUR RISEN LORD – DECLARES

A) I love you my child – never leave you nor forsake you! I am for you with you.

B) Romans 8:37 **“More than conquerors through Him who loves us.”**

C) John 16:33 **“In this world you will have tribulation – but be of good cheer, because I have over come the world.”**

Pastor Chuck Smith – “When you don’t know what is going on, cling to what you do know.”

What do we know?

Jesus is alive!

Jesus loves you!

Jesus died for you!

Jesus is with you!

Jesus is for you!

Jesus promises to see you through!

Interesting we see in the story that the women run of the disciples!

Excited – Ecstatic – Risen – Alive

A) The Disciples didn’t believe them – still bummed out and disillusioned.

B) Then the two guys from the Emmaus Road come EXCITED - and tell them – Risen

1) DISCIPLES didn’t believe them either. – Still bummed out and disillusioned –

C) Finally Jesus appeared to the Disciples and himself and rebuked them.

D) Note this: He didn’t rebuke them for forsaking him a three days earlier.

1) He doesn’t rebuke Peter for Denying him.

E) The thing that brought rebuke – was their unbelief concerning his Resurrection!

The Resurrection of Jesus separates HUMANITY into TWO GROUPS – those who believe – those who don’t

A) Those who have HOPE – those who have no hope

B) All that matters – Believe unto life –

1) Don’t believe – leads to death – Separated.

C) BUT BELIEF IN THE RESURRECTION – is key for making it through trials -

1) 2 Corinthians 1:20 “All the promises of God are Yes and Amen – IN CHRIST –

D) IF HE IS RISEN – I AM IN JESUS !

E) PRECIOUS BROTHERS & SISTERS – TRIAL – BELIEVE TODAY!

1) HE IS RISEN –

- Jesus loves you!
- Jesus died for you!
- Jesus is with you!
- Jesus is for you!
- Jesus promises to see you through!

#4 WE KNOW OUR MESSAGE!

GO AND TELL..... RISEN!