

## Easter 2023 - Mark 16:1-11

### He Still Moves Stones

#### Good morning - Happy Resurrection Day!

A)We are here today to celebrate the greatest day in Human History - The Day Jesus walked...tomb.

B)It is the day that changed Everything!

C)Crowd Participation - Contest - He is Risen

D)He is Risen Indeed

Turn to Mark 16

#### There are a lot of people today who are asking this question. What is next?

A)What is next for our economy? Recover or Recession?

B)What is next - Presidency - Who will the candidates be ?

C)What is next -Internationally

1)The Last 12 months have been filled with Chaos internationally

#### Russia invades - Ukraine -

A)China is threatening to Invade Taiwan

B)Iran is threatening Israel - Israel is threatening Iran - Upheaval everywhere

#### C)What is next? - Where is all this headed?

D)We will answer some of those questions in our Prophecy update this Wednesday at CV

E)All over the World People are asking the questions - what Now - and what is next?

#### Well on that first Easter Morning the followers of Jesus were wondering the same thing

A)What Now? What is next?

B)They had devoted their lives to following JESUS for 3 years

C)They thought he was the long awaited Messiah -

1)They thought he was going to restore - Israel to its former Glory - Make Israel great Again

D)But their hopes and plans were dashed -as they saw him arrested - brutally beaten

1)Nailed to a cross - where he died

E)Then he was buried in a tomb - Stone placed in front - **THE END**

1)Their Hopes and dreams came crashing down - in a matter of a few days - just like that

#### But THE TOMB was not the end of the story! - Amen Repeat

#### The TOMB was not the end of the story!

A)Lets read Mark's account of what happened on that very first Easter Morning

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother of James*, and Salome brought spices, that they might come and anoint Him

B)Those of you who know your Bibles might be thinking - didn't Nicodemus and Joseph anoint

C)Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were two secret followers of Jesus

#### D)Joseph was a rich man - he owned a Tomb in a beautiful garden

1)Big enough for all of his immediate family to be buried in

E)But he chose that have Jesus buried in his tomb

1)Took spices to anoint the body of Jesus

#### But here we read that these women are coming to the tomb - to anoint the body of Jesus -

A)If He was already anointed for burial - why did they need to do it again?

B)Remember these are 3 women coming to the tomb on that first Easter morning -

1)No doubt they thought - the men didn't do it right?

**2 Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, 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?"**

It was a realistic Question: The Stones were Huge

<sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. <sup>5</sup> And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup> But 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. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

<sup>8</sup> So 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.

<sup>10</sup> She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

<sup>11</sup> And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

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

<sup>13</sup> And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either- **Pray**

In the Passage before us today we are going to see how the Resurrection of Jesus

A)Replaces Fear with Power

B)Replaces Guilt and Shame with forgiveness

C)Replaces Hopelessness with Hope

These women are on their way to the tomb - wondering who is going to move the stone for us

A)But when they get to the tomb - the stone is gone - already rolled away

B)Note this: The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out - but to let his followers and the skeptics in

C)The tomb was not the end of the story.

## THE TESTIMONY OF MARY MAGDALENE

A)We are told here V.9 that JESUS appeared to Mary Magdalene, - First person who saw him alive

B)She is identified here as the women that Jesus had cast 7 demons out of.

1)Mary's life was marked by chaos and evil-

C)Her life was a train wreck of a life

1)A Mess with a capital M

Her life prior to meeting Jesus was a living example to the statement that Jesus made -

A)The Devil is a thief who comes to steal to kill and to destroy

B) Satan was destroying Mary at every level

But Mary's life had been completely transformed after she meets Jesus - Demonic power is gone/free

A)Her Dignity restored - She Became a Devoted follower

B)Her life after meeting Jesus was a testimony to this statement Jesus made - **I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly**

C)She was a brand new Woman - a new person -

But Now JESUS was dead!

A)No doubt there was a fear that filled her heart -

B)Would she be able to maintain this life without him!!!

C)Or would she revert back to her old ways.

Notice V.7 Go tell the Disciples and Peter that he is Risen - that He was alive

A)Why was Peter singled out from the other disciples? Was Peter no longer a disciple?

**B)I am sure that was the way Peter felt -**

1)Peter had failed yet again in his desire to please God

C)Peter was a man who loved God - loved Jesus

D)Prior to meeting Jesus Peter was a fishermen - not a good one - never catches fish

**PETER becomes a follower of Jesus - his life is marked by his desire to try so hard to please Jesus**

A)But he was Always Falling on his face

B)The time he accepted Jesus invitation to walk on water started off well - took eyes off and sank

1)The time he rebuked Jesus - get behind me Satan

C)Then there was time he swore he would not forsake Jesus like the others

1)Only to Deny him 3 times

**After that - Guilt and shame filled Peter's heart**

A)He did the very thing he promised he would never do

B)How about you - have you Ever make a promise to God that you didn't keep?

1)I have done that many times

**C)Remember how guilty and full of shame you felt after breaking your promise?**

1)That is how Peter felt -Guilt/ Shame plagued his heart.

**Was that going to be how his story was going to end?**

A)Would he forever be known as the guy who In the darkest hour of Jesus life denied even knowing Jesus

B)But our text says they were told- Go and tell the disciples and especially Peter that I am alive

C)The message was signaling an important truth - that He is the God of the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

D)The Tomb was not the end of the story - and the denial would not be the end of Peter's story either

1)Peter would not be defined by his failure - and you don't have to be either.

**V.12 We are also told here Jesus met with two guys on the road. Luke 24 Emmaus road**

A)These were two men who were going in the wrong direction -

B)The rest of the Disciples were in Jerusalem - But these 2 guys were headed in the opposite direction

C)They were hopeless - hopes dashed - disillusioned

**But Jesus goes after them - Jesus chases them down**

A)Luke's text tells us that they didn't recognize Jesus

B)Why are you guys so sad- Haven't you heard about that guy Jesus

**C)We had hoped..... restore Israel;- hoped he would deliver us from our oppressors**

D)But the problem that these men had was they were only focused on the Horizontal

**They were Looking only at the Oppression of Rome**

A)Jesus Came to deliver them from a greater oppressor sin shame - guilt - SATAN

B)The Bible teaches us that all of Humanity has turned from God - **all sinned fallen short... glory**

1)Broken God's standard - more than once

C)We are not sinners because we sin - we sin because we are sinners

1)It is in our nature

**We are in bondage to our sin - Bondage to our lust - our fleshly desires**

A)Jesus came to set MANKIND free from the bondage and oppression of sin - Shame - Satan

B)These men didn't understand that - so when they heard the news that Jesus had been killed on Friday -

C)Their Hopes were dashed - Their hearts were filled with Doubt and disillusionment

**Maybe your life has also been marked by a disillusionment that has led to hopelessness**

A)Maybe it happened when God didn't answer a prayer you prayed

B)Or He didn't answer it the way you thought he should

C)That has happened to me so many times

**Maybe it was a bad church experience for you.-**

A)Done with this God thing

B)Maybe it was the Hypocrisy you encountered in a professed follower of Jesus

C)You turned away from the Jesus - turned away from the church - Prodigal son or daughter

**Know this: Jesus has not given up on you! -**

A)In the same way He came after these men - He has been coming after you

B)He loves you and wants a relationship with you.

C)These two men on the road - had a Divine appointment with Jesus -

D)Same is true for you. You are not here by accident - Jesus wants to have a divine appointment with you

**Jesus walks with these guys for 7 miles for Jerusalem to Emmaus - He talks about the suffering messiah**

A)Once their eyes were opened and they realized it was Jesus risen from the dead

B)They ran back to tell the other Disciples - He is ALIVE -

C)They said this: **Our hearts were burning as he talked to us about the things of God**

**Some of you are in that place today -Your hearts are burning right now.**

A)Wondering what is this - why do I feel this way

B)Listen friends that is Jesus drawing you - tugging on your heart - to come back to him

1)**He loves you -**

C)It is HIS Holy Spirit convicting you of your sin - stirring your heart to turn back to Jesus

1)Come back - Welcome you Home

I've always loved the statement that President Lincoln said when after the Civil War was over and the generals of Northern army, came to him and said, **"How will you treat those rebellious Southerners?"**

And Lincoln said, **"I will treat them like they never left."**

**If you have left Jesus - walked away from your faith know this he is never left you**

A)He wants to restore you today - complete restoration

B)Turn back to Him today and He will treat you as if you never left !

**Listen: The stone that covered the tomb was not the only stone that was moved away on that first Easter morning**

A)Jesus moved away the stone of doubt and disillusionment and Hopelessness in the hearts of 2 men

B)**"It's been said that a person can live forty days without food, four days without water, four minutes without air, but only four seconds without hope."**

C)The Stone rolled away from the tomb - Reminds us that there is Hope - Hope lives

1)Because Jesus is Alive

D)Christ in you is your Hope of Glory! Colossians 1:27

**On that first Easter morning Jesus ALSO removed the stone of guilt and shame in the Life of Peter -**

**<sup>17</sup> "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." 1 Corinthians 15:17**

**A)The Stone rolled away told Peter that Forgiveness is possible**

B)The Sins of our past do not have to define us.

C)Jesus offers to us today - this truth our Sins are forgiven - forgotten -

1)Given a new start in Jesus!

**Peter would learn that following Jesus was not about his strength or his trying harder - about surrender**

A)Amazing that the guy who denied Jesus before a small group of people around a fire

B)40 days later after seeing Jesus Risen from the Dead and having Jesus Spirit empower him

1)Peter stands before a crowd of 3,000 people and boldly proclaims .....repent ....believe

C)The complete failure is a new man who ends up being used mightily by God

**The Resurrection of Jesus removed the stone of Hopelessness in the two men on the Emmaus road**

A)Their Disillusionment and Hopelessness - was replaced with Hope - he is Alive

B)Jesus removed the stone of Guilt and shame that Plagued Peter's heart - replaced it with forgiveness

**Jesus ALSO moved the stone of fear in Mary's heart - I am risen - I am alive**

A)That means The work that I began in you - I am going to complete it

B)Makes the same promise to you and to me!

C)The Resurrection of Jesus makes all the difference

**You can go to College today and take a class on Comparative religions.**

A)Really there is NOTHING TO COMPARE

B)Christianity is a **SUPERLATIVE Faith**  
FACTS

Confucius' tomb -- occupied. Buddha's tomb -- occupied. Mohammed's tomb -- occupied.  
Jesus' tomb -- empty!

**The empty tomb stands today for us as a banner of our victorious leader**

A)How exciting was march Madness this year - Major Upsets - Princeton gets beat by a 16 seed

B)What about SDSU - Aztecs - first time in the elite 8 first time in the final 4

C)First time in the Championship game - just fell a little short - great Season

**D)But lets pretend they WON the game - they would get a championship banner to hang in their**

**gym**

**Let's say 10 years from now you are talking to someone and you say remember 2023**

A)The Year the Aztecs won it all - your friends says no way

B)SDSU has never won a championship!

C)You Pull out your Phone - you show him a picture of that championship banner - proving - they won

D)Unfortunately they didn't win - there is no banner for 2<sup>nd</sup> place - for runner up

**But listen my friends Jesus did WIN - He Rose He beat death - the stone rolled away -**

A)The EMPTY TOMB Is a Symbol of his Victory

B)AND IT IS A SYMBOL OF OUR VICTORY

C)If You have ever wondered - Am I going to make it

1)Resurrected Jesus is in You - YOU WILL

D)His Power is in you. More than conquerors through Him who loves us!

<sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7

**Lots of people living with fear today**

A)Saw a survey recently - what Men fear the most

B)End of the world due to climate change

1)Fear of not living up to my potential

C)FOMO / SNAKES AND SPIDERS

**#1 The Fear of death!**

A)Universal Fear - where will I go when I die?

B) Peter would say this: <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

C)Living Hope? Because Jesus has Risen from the dead it means all his promises are true



**D) Promise of Forgiveness of sins**

**1) Promise of Freedom from Guilt and Shame**

**E) Promise of Abundant Life -**

**1) Promise that I am going to make it**

**Promise of Victory over death - John 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

A) That statement divides men into two groups those who believe - those who don't believe

**B) Those who have hope today and those who have no hope.**

C) Everyone is going to die - Body is going to give out

**What happens after death? Only two Choices**

A) Eternal life with Jesus - or eternal death -

B) These words were written on a tombstone in a cemetery:

Pause, stranger, when you pass me by: As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you will be. So prepare for death and follow me."

A Christian passing by added these words in a sign placed next to the tombstone:

To follow you I'm not content, Until I know which way you went.

**You want to be sure that you will go to heaven when you die -**

A) Jesus made this promise - **I am the way the truth and the life - no man ... me**

B) Not a way - THE WAY!!!

**The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die and after that comes the Judgment**

A) All stand before God and answer this question - What did you do with my son? - Believe or reject

**B) No neutral ground - for me or against me**

C) Eternal life - or eternal death? - Choice is yours

D) Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for your sins -

1) Rose again from the dead - to offer you his life

**Do you want to know for certain that you will go to heaven when you die**

A) Jesus says - I am the way - Believe in me - faith in me

B) He stands at the door of hearts knocking - Will you open your heart to him today.

C) What is Next ? Today is the day of Salvation - **Pray**

**Maybe you are here today - life has been marked by failure - Sin and Shame - Mess of your life**

A) The Risen Jesus offers you forgiveness of sins today

B) Freedom from guilt - New person - new start

C) Assurance of life

**Maybe you are here today - Like Peter - you are a religious person - follow God - do the right thing**

A) Honest - Your goodness is not good enough

**B) You have failed - you have religion but what Jesus wants is a relationship**

C) You need to put your faith in Jesus to save you and not your religious works - deeds

D) Jesus wants to come into your heart today - fill your life with his Love - his Hope -

1) give you new purpose

**Finally maybe you are like those two men on road - going the wrong way**

A) Walked away from Jesus - walked away from the people of God

B) Been Disillusioned by a bad church experience - or Hypocrisy

C) Jesus would say to you today - Get your eyes off of people - look to me - I will not fail you

**Jesus is calling you to come back to him today back in relationship**

A) He is going to welcome you like you never left

B) Restore you into relationship with him - he is tugging on your heart

**If you are here today and you want to turn from your sin and turn to Jesus**

A)I am going to ask you to do something really simple here today.

B)Most of us have done this: I am going to ask you to get out of your seat - begin your walk with Jesus

1)Coming down front - lead you in a prayer to give your heart to Jesus

C)Why come front? - Jesus called people he called them publically

**If you profess me -I will profess you - Deny me - Deny you.**

A)Standing for Jesus today - in this place - help you stand for him tomorrow

B)So if you are here today: You want to experience your sins being forgiven - guilt removed -

C)YOU want that assurance - Heaven when you die - I want you as the band begins to play - come forward - pray

1)Move from Religion to Relationship

**If you are here today: You have been going in the wrong direction**

A)You are ready to turn around - start following Jesus again- come too.

B)Band starts to play you come now - don't hesitate –

**Before we go today:**

A)One more thing that Jesus wants to do here today.

B)For those of you who are believers -

C)Jesus is Risen - Alive -

**You know that: You have given your heart to Jesus**

A)But I believe there are stones that Jesus still wants to move here today.

B)Stone of tension in your Marriage -

C)Stones of discouragement

1)Suicidal thoughts

Stones of Bitterness and unforgiveness

Stones of Fear -

Jesus is alive - Risen - He wants to work in our lives

**Stone removed in your life or heart - Band continues to play - Chorus - Come down - Pray over you -**

A)Pastors and Elders - come and lay hands on you.