

Mark 16:1-8 - Women and the Resurrection

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Sadly, Jesus' disciples and his friends had not expectation of and made no plans for his resurrection. They were so certain that he would still be dead that some of them went to take care of his dead body on the Sunday after his crucifixion. In this 1st sermon we will examine how the women erred this way...but how God graciously corrected them and then commanded them to announce the resurrection to others.

Our headings are: The Women's **Desire to Serve the Lord**, The Women's **Fear at what they saw**, and The women's **Mission to spread the Word**.

Our goals are: That you will believe and **rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus**, knowing that you were in him when he was raised from the dead, and that you will work to **spread the message of his resurrection** so the world can be saved.

Desire to Serve the Lord

1 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, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

1. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, Salome went to put spices香料 on Jesus' body. I mention the obvious to make a point: Only Mark of the 4 Gospels mentions Salome. You will find that there are a number of these omissions省略 and inclusions from one Gospel to the other. This does not mean that there are contradictions in the Bible. One writer counts the one who speaks and ignores the others, and another writer counts everyone, including the speaker. It is a matter of personal preference. We use similar personal preferences in our speech: Some say a cup is half empty, some half full. Neither one is wrong. It is a matter of choice.

2. Because of the women's courage, as opposed to而不是 the cowardly胆小的 men, they were given the honor of being the first witnesses to Christ's resurrection. The women's courage and fearlessness caused them to go out of the city at a dangerous time without protection to a graveyard. Jn 20:1 – says it was still dark when they left. No wonder the ones who Christ spent so much time with... were set aside because of their cowardice胆怯 and doubts. They were involved in the theological debate: Who would be greatest in the kingdom? But their faith was weak. These men were like Martha (caring for personal honor). The women were like Mary (desiring to honor Christ).

3. These women came with urgency急迫...very early (deep dawn)...the first day after the Sabbath. They came on the day after the Sabbath because they obeyed the law. See the providence意志 of God here. Suppose the day before was not the Sabbath and the women came on the 2nd day after Christ's crucifixion在十字架上钉死, then they would not have been witnesses to his resurrection. Jesus was prophesied预言 to be buried for 3 days. Such was the sovereign plan of God.

4. But sadly, the women came with the expectation that Christ would be dead and his body in the tomb. They forgot that the Christ would be the "Deer of the Morning" (Psalm 22), the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), and the "Sun of Righteousness with healing in his wings." (Malachi 4) So they brought spices that would preserve his body and make the area smell better. They treated Christ like an annual plant...that withered枯萎...died and was no more. They forgot his message that he was living before Abram...and that he was the Son of God – another title for God...and that he and the Father were one...and that he was the resurrection and the source of life.

5. So with spices in hand they reached the tomb, ready to put spices on the body and show their devotion忠诚. They thought that expensive spices they had in their hand was what Christ really needed...but indeed he wanted their worship and he wanted to listen to their needs. There were activities in the women's lives but they were not proper activities. They came with great love and

devotion to Christ, but in this they were acting like Hindus who believe that sincerity is the key to worship. This was ignorant 无知的 affection 热爱. Christ will not have loving feeling in the place of faith. For example: If the civil government gives welfare to a lazy person, is that love?

Fear at what they Saw

3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.

1. As the women walked to the cemetery 坟地 they wondered who would roll the large, heavy stone away so they could get access to the Lord's body. Even small graves, according to Jewish law, had to be at least 2m X 3m, so the stone would have been large. Obviously they didn't know that Pilate 比拉多 had put his seal on the tomb and had placed guard there, otherwise they would not have even tried to go there. And to their surprise, they saw the stone was already rolled away.
2. Seeing the stone rolled away suggested to them that someone had taken the body away. But who? Who would steal Christ's body? Was it a friend or an enemy? Was the body eaten by wild animals? They were perplexed. They could not understand how this could have happened. Imagine the panic that might have set in! And why did they panic? Confusion came because they did not remember the words of Scripture. Yes, it is true that Christians often perplex 迷惑 themselves with things they should be comforted and encouraged about when they don't know the Bible well.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed 害怕. 6 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.

3. As they entered the tomb to find answers, they were met with a young man smartly dressed, and this caused their fear level to rise. They knew this was different. According to Luke, they bowed down in fear to TWO men. But is there a contradiction in our text? Not at all.

Luke 24:4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

But Mark, following Old Testament tradition, described only the one who spoke. It would be silly to think that the 2 angels spoke the same words in unison. (Abram appeared to have had 3 visitors, but only one spoke.) Further, Mark used the words "white robes" and Luke used shiny robes. But when light shines on white, it becomes shiny... especially when the white object moves into the early morning sun. This is why if they were sitting inside the tomb their robes appeared white (Mark) and if they were outside standing, the robes might appeared shiny. Jerusalem was known for being a white tomb city. The point of these verses was that the women feared because they did not remember or they doubted the words of Jesus Christ that he would be raised from the dead on the 3rd day.

Matthew 17:22-23 Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed 背叛 into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up. And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

4. The angels assured the women they had no reason to fear. No one had stolen the body. No animal had eaten the body. Jesus was alive. They would see him themselves. Christ had to be crucified: which was a Roman death, and a very shameful, and painful one...just as he spoke. Christ's descent into the grave and resurrection from this unclean place was also part of Christ's humiliation process...But now he was risen.
5. Why all of the details given about the resurrection? All of these details of Christ's resurrection teach the truthfulness of his words that he had spoken while alive. You do the same thing. Details illustrate truth. You might say: We were on the bridge, it was in the moonlight...there was a light drizzle 洒落...then we saw the explosion...And this is what preaching is. It is a reminder of the details of what Christ has done for you so you could trust him more.
6. Sadly today many people treat Christ as if he were dead, or that he was only raised in their imaginations, and as if they have to figure out the future by themselves. Instead they should be announcing with joy that Christ was raised and live like it. Because he lives you too can live. Christ conquered death. Death can never take you captive.

Mission to Spread the Word

7 "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." 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled 发抖 and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

1. According to Luke, when the angel spoke to them they finally remembered the words of Jesus.

Luke 24: 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" 8 And they remembered His words.

First, a moral lesson: A timely recollection of God's words is always useful to help with present problems in your life. Every wise Christian recognizes this and prepares for it.

Psalms 141:5 Let the righteous strike me; It shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; It shall be as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it.

The bigger lesson is this: The women did not realize that without the resurrection, the Gospel meant nothing. But the resurrection was everything. Do you really believe in the resurrection of Christ and how important is to believe this?

1Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

2. And having been reminded of Christ's words concerning his resurrection, the women were instructed to go and tell this message to the other disciples. And they did it quickly...and with fear...real fear.

Matthew 28:8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

They were afraid the Jews might have charged them with stealing the body of Jesus. It is true that it is not dangerous for you to speak of Christ's resurrection in Canada, but you do encounter mocking and contempt. But because the resurrection is so important that no one can be saved if they don't believe it, you have to tell it to those who want to hear. Ignore telling the mocking. Young people, you remember this. This pressure is much greater on you. Your friends may laugh at your belief, but they need Christ resurrection! Jesus died and rose again for the world.

3. Sadly, some today look for Christ in an image, or a crucifix, or a strange tradition for help to have courage. No wonder they are disappointed. Today you must look for a living Christ. He is alive and well in the hearts of men and women everywhere. He reveals himself in his Word and confirms it by his Holy Spirit.

Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Show people that Christ is living in you. Let your life reflect Christ. This is the best way of showing the resurrection.

4. The Apostle Paul further summarized the benefits of the assurance of Christ's resurrection: Strengthening of your faith.

1Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast坚定, immovable不可动摇地, always abounding丰富的 in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Jesus also assured his disciples of the hope of the resurrection. He did this to strengthen their faith.

John 14:19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

Conclusion:

As with all the other gospel writers, Mark used this incident with these women to encourage you to rejoice in the resurrection and to tell others about it. The resurrection proved everything Jesus said. The resurrection guaranteed that every one who believes in Christ would be raised for the dead also. Further, the good intentions by the women to bring spices were useless. It was an offering the Lord did not need. He needed obedient hearts and open lips.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. When you firmly hold to the resurrection you have reason to rejoice. You won't live as if Christ were dead, for living that way will crush you. You will rejoice because Christ is your guarantee of eternity. 2. Christ's resurrection gives you hope for the future and courage to keep fighting sin, the world, and your sinful flesh. You know you will live forever so you fight. He lives so you live. 3. When you firmly believe in Christ's resurrection, you will announce it to the world knowing that no one can be saved without believing in it. The world can't be saved by following Christ's great example of love and service-as many teach today. It is his atonement for sins and his resurrection from the dead that saves.

If you are not a Christian, let me tell you today that Jesus is alive, though he once died. He died as punishment for the sins of the whole world. If you want him to take away your sin and give you new life all you have to do is ask and receive. He will do a work in your heart that will amaze you.