

The Awe of the Resurrection

Mark 16:1-8

October 19, 2014

Introduction

We are at the end of the gospel of Mark. I pray that we have gained an appreciation for Mark's perspective in showing us Jesus Christ as the Son of God. He wrote it so that we might believe. We finally come to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection is the foundation of the gospel promise. The resurrection is the source of eternal life for those who believe. Without the resurrection there would be no salvation. The resurrection is so important that the church meets on Sundays instead of Fridays because the church understood the primacy of the resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the Twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.*

Note how Paul presents the gospel. In **verses 3-4a**, Paul talks about the crucifixion and burial. However, from **4b-8**, Paul focuses on the evidence of the risen Lord through a variety of witnesses. For Paul, the resurrection is the most important event in history. He goes further:

1 Corinthians 15:15-19 *Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

If there is no resurrection, then everything in the Bible means nothing: the cross, the teaching of Jesus, the creation, the forgiveness of sins. We are to be the most pitied people on earth for believing those things. Thank God that He has given us assurance that the resurrection is indeed true. Remember what Kevin signed this morning—Paul stated emphatically that the resurrection is true.

1 Corinthians 15:20a *But now Christ is risen from the dead*

We can be assured of the reality of the resurrection because the gospel gives us four unique accounts of what happened on that Sunday morning. We will look at all the gospels and see what they tell us. I have given you two handouts: all four gospel accounts and the combined narrative of the gospels (according to my interpretation) .

Mark 16:1-8

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.*

- When Sabbath was over
 - Third day
 - Jesus has always said that He will rise again on the third day

Mark 8:31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Note: He tells the same thing again in **9:31** and **10:33-34**.

- Jews did not reckon time in 24 hour periods
- They counted a part of a day as a whole day
 - Friday afternoon – 1 day
 - Friday sundown – Saturday sundown – 1 day
 - Saturday sundown to Sunday morning – 1 day
- Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of James, and Salome
 - Faithful women who followed Jesus since Galilee

Mark 15:40-41 There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, **41** who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

- These women saw where Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried Jesus

Mark 15:47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where He was laid.

- Why do they come back?
- Bought spices for Jesus' body
 - They wanted anoint His body with spices
 - They loved Him dearly

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?"

- Very early in the morning at sunrise

Matthew 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

John 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

- No contradiction
- Mt of Olives towers over Jerusalem on the east side can block the sun for a while
- Order of events
 - Matthew says that Mary Magdalene went with another Mary
 - John says she was alone
 - Probable explanation: Mary Magdalene went ahead by herself

John 20:1-2 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. **2** Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved,

and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."

Note: Mary Magdalene did not believe what Jesus said about the resurrection. In fact, none of His followers believed what Jesus said about His resurrection.

- Other women arrive at sunrise
- Who will roll away the stone for us
 - They are completely unaware of two things
 - There would be soldiers at the scene

Matthew 27:62, 65-66 *On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.*

- This happened on Saturday (on the Sabbath)
- That the angel had come and rolled the stone away

Matthew 28:2-4 *And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.*

- This happened sometime early Sunday morning
- When soldiers saw that the tomb was empty—they took off
- They go back to the chief priests and tell them what had happened

Matthew 28:11-15 *Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. 12 When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, 13 saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.' 14 And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure." 15 So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

- Notice that the Jewish leaders do not say that the tomb is empty

4 *But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away--for it was very large.*

- Imagine the shock!
- Remember the women were not expecting the resurrection
- They came to pour spices and oils on the dead body

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. 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. 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."

- They entered the tomb

Luke 24:3 *Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

- No body of the Lord Jesus; tomb is empty
- Angels' appearance
 - Two angels

Luke 24:4 *And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments.*

- Heavenly witnesses
 - White shining (dazzling) garments
- Women's reaction
 - Fear! (not for their lives, but of amazement and shock!)

Luke 24:5a *Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth*

- Angels' testimony
 - A very natural conversation
 - Do not be afraid!
 - You seek Jesus who was crucified (right tomb!)
 - He is not here—see where they laid Him
 - He is risen
- Angels' command
 - Go tell the disciples
 - Go tell Peter
 - Peter needs recovery and love
 - His denial of Jesus was ugly and needed reassurance
 - Jesus is going to meet them in Galilee
 - You will see Him!
 - This is what He has been saying

Mark 14:28 *But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.*

Note: The women understood and responded to the angelic command much more readily than the disciples.

8 *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.*

- Amazed and afraid
- Mark is in awe of the resurrection of Jesus
- He closes it that way so that we will be in awe
- Their initial reaction is fear and tongue-tied!
- Until!

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

- All their fears melt into joy!
- A brand new day dawned on these women

Matthew 28:9 *And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.*

- Jesus meets them
- Rejoice!

Coram Deo

Note: This is my new focus on the applications. (Thanks to Dee and Shawn for their suggestions.) This phrase literally refers to something that takes place in the presence of, or before the face of, God. To live coram Deo is to live one's entire life in the presence of God, under the authority of God, to the glory of God.

The resurrection of Jesus. That is the day that the dawn blazed upon the history of the world. Darkness has been wholly defeated. Victory is completely secured. It is the resurrection day that all our sorrows are turned into joy.

John 16:20-22 *Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.*

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

Colossians 1:12-14 *giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

We are now in the kingdom of light and love. When it seems that circumstances in our lives cloud over us with darkness and sorrow, let us to go in the tomb and stare in wonder that it is empty. If we have experienced loss with our family and friends as the women experienced, let us look in the empty tomb. If we have experienced disappointments as Thomas did, let us look in the empty tomb. If we have been knocked down because of sin, let us look in the empty tomb. If we feel that we are worthless, let us look in the empty tomb. Let us hear the angels proclaim to us, "He is not here. He is risen! He has gone ahead and prepared a place for you and He will take you with Him and be with you forever. He will not leave you." Let the blazing light of the reality of the resurrection burn away your sorrow so that you will experience joy again.