

Title: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Text: Mark 15:42-16:13

What joy it is to our hearts that he who died on that cross rose again. He is alive right now. And I want you to know that if you are visiting with us today, we don't believe any of that liberal trash about rising in your hearts, or that it is the spirit of Jesus that lives today NO...We believe that Jesus actually came back from the dead in body form. And we believe he is alive, now. And he is going to come back to this earth in the body in which he arose from that grave.....That is the Gospel. The Bible ~~even makes it so strong~~ ^{makes it very clear}, it says if you don't believe ^{in the Resurrect} that you are not going to be saved.....

And some folks think they are christians because they follow only the teachings of Jesus and all of that. Listen, the Bible says that if you don't believe that he arose from the dead in bodily form, you can't be saved. That is how important it is.

And there is no life after death if Jesus didn't arise from the dead. So, that is what we are going to talk about.

Turn with me to Mark chapter ¹⁶~~15~~....Mark ¹⁶~~15~~ beginning with Verse ¹~~42~~....

(Read Mark ¹⁵⁻¹⁶~~15-16~~:~~13~~)

Join me in a moment of Prayer

Father, thank you for that day when Jesus arose from the dead. And I pray that you will speak to all of us today about the importance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And I pray that those here who have been toying with their commitment might understand that Christianity is built on historical facts that Jesus actually arose from the dead. Father, I pray by your Spirit that you would clearly shown that to people today. And we would understand that without the resurrection of Christ there is no hope for the believer. We are wasting our time, we are still in our sins. And as Paul said our preaching is in vain. God help us to see the importance of the resurrection. And we ask this in Jesus name...Amen.

Now, the reason why the Lord Jesus was taken off the cross is found in Vs 42. It says that it was the preparation day. The day before THE SABBATH. Now, why is that important?

The Preparation Day is the day of Passover. The next day after Passover is not any old Sabbath. It is a particular Sabbath no matter what day it falls on. Now, get out of your mind that Sabbath is always Saturday. The word "Sabbath" in Hebrews means "rest". There is a normal weekly "rest." Which is on Saturday under Mosaic law.

But, there are many kinds of Sabbaths in the Bible. And there are feast days which are also Sabbath days, or "rest days" regardless of what day they may fall on. And one of those is the first day of the feast of Unleaven bread. Which starts the day after the Preparation. It is not any old Sabbath. It is not the Saturday of that week.

As a matter of fact, it is my understanding that it occurred on Friday of that week. And Christ died on the preparation day or Thursday.

But, anyway, the point is that the Verse tells us that it was the Preparation Day, the day before THE SABBATH. It is a particular Sabbath. Not any old sabbath. And the definite article "THE" tells us so. It was a special sabbath.

And they had to take Jesus down from the cross.....Now why?.....

Turn to Deuteronomy chapter 21. Deuteronomy chapter 21...

In John 19:31 it says that "the Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for the Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."

Now, the traditional view^h that Christ died on Friday because Saturday is the nominal Sabbath. But John 19:31 clearly tells you that it was a special Sabbath. It was not the normal weekly Sabbath. It was the high day. The High Holy Convocation spoken of in the Feast of Unleaven Bread in Leviticus 23. It was a special day.

Now, notice Deut. 21:22.....(READ DEUT. 21_22-23)

And then those guards were placed in position. And it is sort of funny. The critics come along and say, "Well, there were only four soldiers. And there are eleven disciples. Those eleven could over power the four."

Oh, you haven't studied much about Roman guards. You know, a Roman guard would actually guard an area of 16 square feet against anyone...no matter how many. He was so well trained that he could guard a 16 foot square against a hundred men if he had to. They were trained that well. In fixed positions they would not give ground.

Friends, there is no way that those disciples who ran away and fled, all of a sudden became mighty heroes... Oh, No... You had better think again.

All these facts are so clear... Jesus was dead.

Look at
() Now, let's ~~come to~~ the proclamation of ~~His~~ resurrection. *of S.C.* Mark 16....
And there are a number of them that I can go to

(1) Number one, in verse 1 thru 4 of Mark chapter 16, it says that the stone was a real problem in the mind of those women. The stone was a real problem. "Who is going to roll away the stone?"

When they came, early in the morning, to anoint him, they were saying "to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us.'"

Now, friends, don't pass over that statement. That is a fantastic phrase for us to read. Because what I believe is indicated there is that the ladies did not know that the stone was in front of that door. Yet, they were the two who witnessed where he was laid in Vs 47. *of chapter 15.*

The reason why I am pointing that out is because that proves to me that when the Pharisees came along with the Roman guard they put that stone in place and sealed it. And the women didn't know that. And when they arrived at the tomb on the third day they were surprised to find the tomb sealed. And thus they reacted normally... "HAY, WHO IS GOING TO ROLL THE ~~STONE~~ ^{STONE} AWAY FOR US."

Now, why is that true?.... Because if those women had seen the stone rolled in front of that entrance, they would have brought help with them to remove the stone. And they would not have been surprised to find it there. "WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?"

Vs 4..."But looking up" what did they see? NOW, PUT ALL THIS TOGETHER IN YOUR MIND....

These ladies come to the tomb. They don't expect the tomb to be sealed. They find it sealed. And they look at one another and ask the question: WHO WILL ROLL THE STONE AWAY FOR US?"

And in the next second they look up and saw that the stone had been rolled away.....WOW!!!

Vs 5..."And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right." I don't believe they expected to see him at all. Do you? The Bible says that they were amazed. "And he said to them, 'Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid him.'"

Another Gospel records the fact that when Peter and John entered the tomb they saw the grave clothes.

That in itself is a miracle. How did Jesus get out off the grave clothers It was all laid in order. If someone tried to unwrape it, do you know what a mess that would have made? With all that anointment and spices. And all that wrapping would be heaped in one big messy pile.

But the Bible says that the grave clothers were all laid out. As if someone was there, but he was not. He was gone. But the clothers were perfectly laid out.

HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? The angle said that he was risen from the dead. () Which brings us to the fact of how that stone was rolled away. The Bible simply says that it was an angel of the Lord who did it. A lot of people think that it was an earthquake. Because the Bible says that an earthquake happened. But it wasn't an earthquake. ^{don't know} The Bible says that an angel of the Lord did it. He rolled it away.

Vs 5 and 6, we notice that the ^{Testimony} ~~realization~~ that Jesus was ^{resurrected} ~~gone~~ came to those two wemen by the angel. But they were frightened.

You know, I have tried to put myself into that story. What would I have thought if I had been one of those ^{ladies} ~~women~~ coming into that tomb. And seeing that man clothed in white telling me that Jesus was gone. What would I have ^{Sained? SMU?}

What would I have done? I don't know what you think about that. But I think it is the most incredible moment of all human history. The NEWS THAT JESUS CHRIST HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD. SO UNBELIEVABLE. They were shocked.. They were amazed...they were afraid...The Angel

The Angel clearly told them their responsibility, by the way. Vs 7 and 8 says that. Did you notice that? He said, "go and tell the disciples." That is the responsibility that all of us have. GO AND TELL THE NEWS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS ALIVE. HE AROSE FROM THE DEAD.

But did they? NO! The Bible says that they were afraid. They were afraid and they said nothing to anyone.

You know, it is interesting that we are still afraid today to tells others of ^{Jesus} Him. He is alive. He arose from the dead. WHY DON'T WE TELL PEOPLE? They were afraid. They said nothing to anyone.

And according to the Bible the first appearance that Jesus made came to Mary Magdalene. Mary, of course, was the woman that Jesus cast out 7 deamons. *And I really want you to see this*
~~I have got to have you turn to it. I know it is late. But I want you to~~
turn to John chapter 20, John 20 verses 11 to 18.

The whole event here of appearing to Mary is incredible. Mary Magdalene. He had cast 7 demons out of her.

Let's just quickly go over this. John chapter 20:11.. Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping. The Bible says that two Angels in white were seating.

People say...Error..There was only one...Now, wait a minute. There is no controdickion, here, friends.

These are two separate occassions. Not one and the same. On the first occassion Mary Magdalene was with Mary the mother of Jesus coming to the tomb. This here in John is dealing with the appearance of Jesus to Mary. And there were two angels involved. One at the head and one at the feet. And they said to ^{her} here, "Woman why are you weeping?"

It is intersting that Mary came back, isn't it?

She said to the Angels, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have ~~aid~~ him."

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(REad Vs 14-16...stop with the word "Mary")

I love that. That is so wonderful. There is something about calling someone by their first name . It suggest closeness. You know, you are in a group and you talk about many things. And you don't really pay attention. But ^{then} ~~they~~ someone mentions your name. And it gets your attention.

And Jesus said, "MARY!" And she knew. She knew. And the Bible tells us what she did when Jesus said "stop clinging to me."

Oh, she just threw herself around his feet. And the Bible says that other did that, also, when they saw Jesus.

Don't you think that folks knew that He was something more than a ghost? It is incredible. Jesus invited his disciples: "Handle me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see me have."

He invited people to touch Him. And John wrote in I John 1:1 "we have handled him with out hands." They knew he was alive. ~~And~~

And Mary kept clinging to Him, the Bible says. And Jesus said, "Stop clinging to me."

Some of ^{the} you have text that say, "Don't touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father." And it seems to be a strange problem. The Greek simple has: "STOP CLINGING TO ME".

The point is that we have other people to tell. And I am going to be around for awhile. So, don't get excited.

Do you understand what Mary was doing? She was doing what anyone might do who loved Jesus. She said, "You are not getting away this time."

And she was hanging on for dear life.

And Jesus said, "Hay! I have not ascended yet. Just stay cool!"... (Modern translata^{tion}on)....

But, I just love this story. I just get so excited about it. And I often wish I had a heart Like Mary had. Mary loved Jesus so much.

Wouldn't you, if you had been healed by Jesus and forgiven by Jesus? A wicked past..a woman of the street...demon possessed..And Jesus healed her. WOULDNT YOU LOVE HIM TOO?

That is half of our problems. We foreget that he saved us from our sins. And we don't love him like we should.

Mary Magdalene love Jesus.

() Well, one final thing and I am done. The response of two who saw Jesus was the same as the report of Mary Magdalene.

And I guess this is the ~~sad~~ tragedy of the whole thing. And it remains us of people today. In Mark 16 verse 11 when Mary reported the fact that Jesus was alive, "they didn't believe."

And the two men ~~on~~ the road to Emmase, when they saw him and they ate with him, and they heard him explain the scriptures (Luke 24)...they came back and reported this fact, and the Bible says, Vs 13, "that they did not believe them either."

A lot of folks are troubled by that. How come these disciples did not believe?

Well, Jesus gives us the answer. It was hardness of heart.

Do you know what the real problem is as to why we do not believe what is obviouse? Because our hearts are hardened. They are hardened..stubbern..

The facts may be right in front of us. And we willn't believe it.

Dear Friends, Jesus is alive. And the Bible says that with our mouth ~~in~~ confession is made unto salvation; And we must confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God rised him from the dead in order to be saved.

I appeal to you that if you have never settled this, do it soon, before it is too late.

LET US CLOSE IN PRAYER