

The Risen King – Mark 16

The message of the empty tomb is for those who are faithful.

The women went to mourn over a dead body and instead found an empty tomb and a risen Saviour.

The angel brought the message that is still at the heart of the message of the church; He is risen!

We are called to be a people of the cross and proclaimers of the resurrection.

We are empowered and emboldened to go out and tell our community that we serve a risen Saviour.

The message of the empty tomb is for those who have failed.

The empty tomb reminds us that our God can do the impossible and that he can do the impossible within us.

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter.” Our failure may greatly hinder our ability to move forward if we focus on the sin and forget the grace and the power found in the message of the empty tomb.

Christ was not done with Peter; the Easter message is a story of salvation, but it is also a story of reconciliation.

Peter’s sin does not have the last word; there would be a renewed call to service from the risen King.

The message of the empty tomb is for those who are fearful.

We do not want our fear keeping us from telling the story of the empty tomb.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith. (Romans 1:16-17)

The church must not ignore the power and the message of the resurrection story; there is no reason why we would want to do so.

We do not want to be led by fear or lack of faith; our Christ has gone ahead of us to prepare the way.

QUOTE

“Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples, and all of us: as victory over sin, evil, and death - over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, you, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!”

(Pope Francis)

Risen Lord, Revitalized People – Luke 24:1-12

Remember the Gospel

The women came in a state of mourning, they came to pay tribute to a dead man, and they came with a sense of finality in the purpose of their mission.

Easter reminds us why we have hope, why we can be confident, and why we soldier on.

Easter is an opportunity to remember the power and the purpose of the resurrection of our Saviour; it stands as our key to victory as a church and as disciples devoted to the cause of Christ.

“The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”

The believers had heard the words but they did not allow the truth of Christ’s message to permeate their hearts and minds.

Do we need to remember the power of the resurrection in our own lives?

Respond to the Gospel

The gospel message demands a response from us; it will never leave us in a neutral position.

Never underestimate the calling that God has placed on your life and the life of others.

How do we respond to the gospel message in our own lives?

Who is God calling you to be, where is he directing you to go, and what is he telling you to do?

How are we responding in our own lives to the reality of the resurrected Saviour? Is it a relationship built on faith and boldness in word and action?

You do not know what seeds you are planting; you do not know the influence your ministry may have on the lives of others.

Reveal the Gospel

Our worship services and our weekly programming should teach and at the very least live out the truth of the transformational power of the Easter story.

How are you proclaiming the resurrection story in the places where you will be this week?

How deliberate are you in being sensitive to the moments when God is calling you to witness and to serve?

QUOTE

In our worship we must be careful not to reduce our message to the Easter fact only. The Easter fact must include the message this fact proclaims: God makes all things new. It must also include the message that we have been raised with Christ. Calling God's people to die to sin and rise to the new life is central not only to Easter day but to the Easter season.”

(Robert E. Webber)