The Sermon History Tried to Erase April 17, 2022

*Mark 16:1-8 Series: Easter Under Fire*

It’s like you’ve only ever watched a version of the Titanic where Jack gets rescued by the lifeboat.

Intro: As popular as the movie was, the ending was too much for many.

1. Jesus’ followers didn’t believe the promises of Jesus’ resurrection
2. Why do the women buy spices to anoint Jesus’ dead body?

v. 1 *When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.*

1. Why do the women go to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ dead body?

v. 2 *And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.*

1. Why do the women wonder how they will get into the tomb?

v. 3 *And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”*

1. Why didn’t they believe Jesus’ promises of resurrection?

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 the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.* (cf. Mark 9:31; 10:32-34)

* Have you ever noticed the brackets around vv. 9 to 20 in most modern translations? Did it affect how you read the chapter?
* The women are clearly very earnest in their devotion to Jesus. Why do you think they failed to believe Jesus’ promises?
* How could you know that you’re not skipping over parts of God’s Word and choosing what you hear?

1. Jesus’ followers didn’t understand the evidence of Jesus’ resurrection
2. Why doesn’t the stone convince them?

v. 4 *And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.*

1. Why don’t they recognize the angel?

v. 5 *And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.*

1. Why don’t they believe what they hear?

v. 6 *And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.”*

* When they saw the stone rolled away, what should have been their first response?
* It should have been obvious to the women that they were seeing an angel. Why do they just think that it’s “a young man”?
* Have you ever tried to explain away circumstances that point to the hand of God? Why do we do that?

1. Jesus’ followers didn’t share the message of Jesus’ resurrection
2. The women are commanded to go and tell

v. 7 *But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.*

1. Why won’t they speak?

v. 8 *And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*

1. The story can’t end this way!

1 Corinthians 15:14 *And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*

Matthew 28:9 *And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

* How should they have felt about the angel’s announcement in v. 7? Why do you think they feel the way they do in v. 8?
* Why did fear keep them from saying anything?
* What keeps you from sharing your faith?
* Why is Christian faith meaningless if Christ hasn’t actually been resurrected? i.e. Why does Paul say what he does in 1 Corinthians 15:14?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Luke 4:14-30

Notes