



PART 4: THE RESURRECTION PRINCIPLE

Sermon Notes

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Introduction: The Resurrection Principle

Mark 8:34-37 “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

John 12:24-25 “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

To live a new life, we must “die” to our old ways. Jesus promises that when we “die” to ourselves, he will make us alive in him.

“When [God] talks of their losing their selves, He means only abandoning the clamour of self-will; once they have done that, He really gives them back all their personality, and boasts (I am afraid, sincerely) that when they are wholly His they will be more themselves than ever.” ~ Screwtape (C.S. Lewis)

“It’s not a bad trade to give what you can’t keep to gain what you can’t lose.”

A few points about the narrative (Mark 16:1-8)

- a) The writer, Mark, is writing an historical account, not a fable, not a myth, not an allegory. HISTORY.
- b) The account is too counterproductive to be made up. At the time, women were considered unreliable as witnesses. The only reason the gospel writers would highlight women as the first witness is *if that’s how it actually happened*.
- c) The empty tomb (the resurrection) changed everything for these women and for the rest of Jesus’ followers.

1. God has the last word, not my situation

Mark 16:3 “...and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

“Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue? What’s happened to the world?” ~ Sam Gamgee (The Lord of the Rings).

Even if our circumstances kill us we know that death does not have the final say.

v. 6 “He has risen! He is not here.”

2. I can trust Jesus

v.8 “He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, *just as he told you.*”

If Jesus was right when he predicted his death and resurrection, then we can trust everything else he said.

1Corinthians 6:14 “By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and we will raise also”

3. I can begin again today

v. 7 “But go...”

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Life is different in light of what he has done.

John 5:24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me HAS eternal life and will not be condemned; he HAS crossed over from death to life.”

1 Corinthians 5:17 “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

Conclusion

Life Group Discussion

1. Warm up: What does it mean to have “freedom.” How should we use our freedom? Does making a choice mean you’ve lost your freedom?
2. Read Mark 8:34-37. Refer, also, to John 12:24-25. What is Jesus saying in these passages?
 - In what ways do we need to “die to our old ways” in life changes like marriage and having kids? What other life changes does the Resurrection Principle apply to?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. What stands out to you in this passage?
 - Paul makes it very clear that he believed in the physical, historical resurrection of Jesus (not merely spiritual or allegorical). What are the consequences, according to Paul, if Jesus **was not** physically resurrected? What are the promises because he **was** physically resurrected?

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that because of the resurrection, we are new creations! What do you think the Bible means by “new creation.” What’s so different for those who believe in Jesus?
5. Pray together:
 - a) Pray for all the guests who joined us on Easter Sunday, that they would be transformed by the message of Jesus and would feel welcome in our church.
 - b) Pray that we would have the courage to continue to “die” to our old ways so that we could live as new creations.
 - c) Other requests:
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