

“When God’s Ways Make No Sense” - Mark 16:1-14 - April 21st, 2019

Mark 16:1–14 - 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. 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?” 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. 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.” 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for **they trembled and were amazed (bewildered, baffled)**. And they said nothing to anyone, for **they were afraid**. 9 Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as **they mourned and wept**. 11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, **they did not believe**. 12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their **unbelief and hardness of heart**, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

- As I was seeking the Lord, concerning this Resurrection Sunday sermon He showed me something I never really saw before.
- Namely, that of just how terrifying and unsettling the crucifixion was to the disciples of Jesus, and those followers of Jesus.
- What’s striking to me is the detail in the Gospel accounts describing the powerful emotions that they experienced at this time.

Matthew 28:4-5 - 4 And the guards **shook for fear** of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, “**Do not be afraid**, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

John 20:9 - They still **did not understand** from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Luke 24:11 - But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like **nonsense**.

- I would argue that none of this made any sense to them and it’s evidenced by their fear, bewilderment disbelief and confusion.
- They were utterly devastated emotionally because they could not understand why Jesus had to be crucified in the first place.
- Simply put, this wasn’t supposed to happen this way but it did, and they were unable in their unbelief and it was unacceptable.

- The truth of the matter is, there are going to be those times in our Christian lives when God’s ways absolutely make no sense.
- Sadly, it’s during those times we give into despair, which leads us away from the Lord at a time when we really need the Lord.
- This explains why the disciples end up hiding in fear after the crucifixion, and why Peter denied Jesus prior to the crucifixion.

Matthew 11:2–6 - 2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” 4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

- Dare I say, that many of us have the propensity to be offended because the Lord hasn’t done what we expected Him to do.
- Thankfully, the Lord understands that even the best of us can have a crisis of faith during those times of great doubt and fear.
- It’s so encouraging that Jesus would go on to praise the greatness of John the Baptist instead of rebuking him for his doubts.

Matthew 12:20–21 - 20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. 21 In his name the nations will put their hope.”

- I would venture to say that many of us today, particularly in these, the last days, are the bruised reeds and smoldering wicks.
- But God!!! But God will not crush us, or snuff us out until He brings victory. And, it’s in His name that we will put all our hope.
- Whatever you are facing on this Resurrection Sunday won’t have the final word in your life. Put your trust and hope in Him.

1 Corinthians 15:1–3 - 1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

The ABC’s of Salvation - A is for Admit you’re a sinner – Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The B is for Believe. Romans 10:9-10 says if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. The C is for Call. Romans 10:9-10 also says if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:13 says that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.