The Greatest Day in History:

Easter 2019

4.21.19

Mark Series (Skipped ahead for Easter)

# 1. Today is the Day we Celebrate Jesus’ Resurrection.

 A. Not only did Jesus die a real death, but He also experienced a real resurrection.

 1. Jesus’ death satisfied the wrath of God that our sins deserved.

2. In our culture, when something is broken or someone made a mistake, we may say, “Someone’s going to pay for this.”

3. Our sin is real and a cost had to be paid.

4. Jesus willingly spoke up and, “I’ll pay the price for their sin.”

5. Friday night, we celebrated and reflected upon the death of Jesus that paid the price for our sins.

 B. Today is the day we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from the dead.

1. Jesus’ resurrection is proof that He not only paid the price of our sin, but He conquered it.

 2. The finality of death was overthrown by Jesus’ resurrection.

C. For every person today, you can experience a new life, a new beginning, and a better eternity because of what Jesus has done.

 1. Jesus’ death and resurrection isn’t only for the good.

2. Jesus’ death and resurrection wasn’t only for the perfect or the naturally religious.

3. Jesus’ death and resurrection is for every one of us.

4. And nowhere is this clearer than in the resurrection story of Mark 16.

5. Today, I want to share with you 5 types of people that the Resurrection, the Greatest Day in History, is for.

Mark 16:1–13 (CSB)

**RESURRECTION MORNING**

**16**When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him. **2**Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise. **3**They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” **4**Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

**5**When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. **6**“Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him. **7**But go, tell his disciples and **Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; **you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”**

**8**They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them**. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.**

**THE LONGER ENDING OF MARK: APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD**

[**9**Early on the first day of the week, after he had risen, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. **10She went and reported to those who had been with him, as they were mourning and weeping.** **11**Yet, when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe it.

**12**After this, he appeared in a different form to two of them walking on their way into the country. **13**And they went and reported it to the rest, who did not believe them either.

# 1. The Greatest Day is for the most unlikely of people.

 A. The culture these women were willing in were very hostile towards them.

1. A woman was necessary for having babies and keeping house, but, for many, that was the extent.

 2. Jesus’ relationship with women during His ministry was very progressive.

a. Jesus had women who not only followed Him in His ministry but supported the ministry financially.

b. Jesus started the conversation with the woman at the well, which broke every gender rule of the day especially for Rabbis.

c. Jesus allowed a woman to anoint His feet in the days preceding His death in a day when women were not allowed to touch a Rabbi.

 B. For women to be the first evangelists of the Resurrection is a very big deal.

1. God allowed women to be the very first witnesses and evangelists of the Resurrection in a day when the testimony of a woman had no value.

2. These women showed up to the tomb to administer the last rites.

3. Instead, God allowed them to be the first to hear that Jesus was alive, and to see the evidence.

 C. One of these women was Mary Magdalene.

1. Formerly, she had been demon-possessed and then found freedom in Jesus’ ministry.

2. I can only imagine the scandal that must have surrounded her and her discipleship to Jesus.

3. But, for Jesus, Mary Magdalene was a perfect candidate to be a witness of the life-giving power of the resurrection.

D. If Jesus was willing to first show himself to a woman who had been possessed by demons, do you really think your past scares Jesus?

 1. Can anyone be too far gone for Jesus not to save them?

 2. Is anyone too bad, too messed-up, or too broken for Jesus not to love them?

3. **The Cross and the Tomb are proof that your past does not keep Jesus from loving you.**

 E. This morning, some of you walked in here not expecting much.

 1. To be honest, you don’t think God can do anything with you.

 2. I want to tell you that God can do the impossible in your life.

 3. Today can be the day we celebrate your resurrection from the dead, too.

# 2. The Greatest Day in History is for those who can’t fix it on their own.

 A. The women arrive to the tomb not sure how they could even get to the body.

1. The tomb would have had a large stone, like a mill stone, set in a groove, tilted inward, that required several men to roll it away from the entrance.

2. These women could not roll away the stone entrance by themselves.

3. They were hoping there would be some workers in the area who would be so kind as to roll it away that they might complete their sacred task.

4. What they found was much better.

 B. They arrived to a rolled-away stone, an empty tomb, and a messenger from God.

 1. I cannot imagine the roller-coaster of emotions they would have felt.

 2. They came in mourning, listened in shock, and left in fear.

3. The Jesus they knew to be dead was not only alive, but would meet them in their old stomping grounds of Galilee.

 4. And all of this happened without their hard work or effort.

 C. Many of us are accustomed to making stuff happen.

 1. When times get tough, we get tougher.

 a. We control our environment and our destiny.

 b. When we are down, we pull ourselves up with our own bootstraps.

 c. All of this has its place and its time.

2. But when it comes to spiritual things, and most things in life, we cannot save ourselves.

 a. You cannot save your life.

 b. There is not enough willpower to overcome the pull of sin in your life.

 c. You need Jesus to do what you can’t.

 d. Jesus can do in an instance what we have spent a lifetime messing up.

3. If you have been trying to fix your life, your marriage, your world all by yourself without success, you are in great company.

 a. Because none of us can.

 b. But with Jesus, impossible things become possible.

# 3. The Greatest Day in History is for those who are fearful, afraid, and unsure (Vs. 8 and 12-13).

A. Verses 8, 12 and 13 tell us that a common reaction to the news of Jesus’ resurrection is fear and uncertainty.

 1. Mary and the other women felt it.

 2. The disciples felt it.

 3. And, if you are honest with yourself, you have felt it too.

 B. Every one of us here have experienced and felt fear and uncertainty.

1. Although our fear isn’t due to seeing an Angel, we know what it is like to be in situations that our natural reaction is fear.

 2. Most of us don’t thrive in uncertainty.

 3. Most of us don’t thrive when we are in a season of mourning and weeping.

4. Most of us don’t thrive when we get a bad doctor’s report, a pink-slip, or our debit card is declined.

5. Yet, it is our toughest moments that God’s love and power shines the brightest.

 C. Very likely you have thought. “How can God ever use someone as messed up as me?”

1. In a world that worships superheroes, super-athletes, and super-stars, you feel more like Donald Duck than Iron-Man.

2. Yet, God has done His best work through ordinary people who had ordinary fears:

a. God used the fearful Moses to deliver the Jews from the greatest Army of their day.

b. God used the fearful Gideon to deliver Israel from the hands of their oppressors.

 c. God used the fearful Women to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive.

 d. If God can use them, He can most certainly can use you.

3. Your fear is not a disqualifier in the Kingdom of God.

4. Let the truth of the Resurrection overwhelm the fear in you.

# 4. The Greatest Day in History is for those who have walked away from Jesus.

**Mark 16:7 (CSB) 7But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”**

A. The Angel tells Mary and the Women that Jesus is going ahead into Galilee, and there they will see Jesus alive!

 1. This is remarkable news.

2. It is the resurrection that sets Jesus apart from every other religious figure in human history.

 B. I want us to notice who the message is for.

 1. “Go, and tell his disciples and Peter” …

 2. Why is this significant?

3. Because Peter and the disciples had abandoned Jesus when Jesus needed them most.

 a. Not only did Peter deny Jesus, He denied Him three times.

 b. To disown your Rabbi and friend was the worst of betrayals.

c. At this point, Peter is so depressed he decides to go back to the family fishing business.

 d. Peter is in a bad headspace.

C. Yet, the message that Jesus was alive and would meet them on their journey was addressed specifically to Peter.

1. Jesus then goes out of His way to restore Peter back into relationship with Him.

2. For every person who has ever tried and failed, there is no fear of Jesus giving up on you.

3. As long as you have breath in your lungs, you have an opportunity to experience God’s love and forgiveness.

 D. **Some of you have had a rough journey lately**.

 1. There was a time when you were serving Jesus and doing what you should.

 2. But, lately, you haven’t.

 3. You have gone back to bad habits, old sins, and feel separated from God.

 4. Maybe you are wondering if you have finally gone too far.

 5. Is this the time that Jesus gives up on me?

 6. Today, I can gladly tell you, that The Greatest Day in History is a reminder that Jesus doesn’t give up as quickly as we do.

That’s because…

# 5. The Greatest Day is for you.

 A. Jesus’ resurrection from the dead means that your resurrection as well.

 1. Because Jesus is alive, you can be alive too.

 2. Because Jesus paid the price for your sin, you can experience freedom.

 B. Some of you here today are going through some of the darkest days of your life.

1. Like the women, you are expecting to find your dreams, your hopes, your love, your future wrapped up in grave-clothes, awaiting a final burial.

2. I hope that today will be the day that that which has been dead will be made alive in your life.

 C. Wherever you are in life, Jesus will be there.

1. On your toughest day, Jesus is there

2. During your scariest appointment, Jesus is there.

3. During your greatest crises, Jesus is there.

4. The promise of the resurrection is that Jesus is not limited by what limits us.

#  Closing: This morning, I want to lead us in a time of prayer.

 A. Every weekend, we take time to pray in a couple of different ways.

1. If God is speaking to you very directly and personally, in a moment I want you to come across the front so me and my team can pray with you.

 a. Nothing is too big or too small to be prayed for.

 b. If you are struggling with your relationship with God, in just a moment, I’m going to ask you to come to stage left (my left your right).

 c. This can be for anything related to your relationship with Jesus.

2. Maybe, you are in need of a miracle and resurrection in your life, your marriage, your job, your dreams, your health.

 a. Again, nothing is too big or too small to be prayed for.

b. IN just a moment, I’m going to pray and ask you to come to stage-right (my right your left).

c. Our purpose in this is so we might connect our faith with yours in seeing a miracle happen.

B. Even if you don’t come to the front today for prayer, would you, in just a moment, pray in your seat?

1. Maybe the thought of stepping in front of this many people is a little scary, and I get it.

 2. Just because you don’t come forward doesn’t mean that God won’t hear you.

3. So, in a moment, I would like everyone here to engage in prayer either by coming up front or praying in your seat.

4. For today is the day to celebrate New life, New beginnings, and a God who loves us!

Prayer