

June 7th 2009: Mark Series Final :Mark 16:1-8 “When the end is in fact the Beginning”

As I mentioned Participaper.....last study Mark.....and as I also commented.... Mark's Gospel actually ends at v8.

This then makes Mark 16.....one of the shortest chapters....containing the briefest account of the Resurrection.....

And yet its very **brevity**.....emphasizes.....the incredible...mind numbing....life changing ..**impact** that the news of.....had upon the people.....who were His followers

And from the very first verse.....no doubt.....we are hearing about everyday folk
These are not extra import.....Scholars.....Apostles.....not even men

3 women.....setting out to do a final act of love....compassion....and kindness for their

- **In the previous chapter** we read about these same..... at the cross: v40-41

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

They were part of a group of women.....who all stood and watched with agony .**but** of that whole group....**it was these 3 ladies**.....who could not allow..... their last sight of.....to be such a tragic one

So in v47 we find the two of them following Joseph....to the tomb where .**then** at their very first opportunity....after the Sabbath was over....**buying ready** to be on the road with their friend Salome.....just as the sun was beginning to

IT SEEMS THAT →

- THEY would offer the prayers for the dead.....
- They would anoint the body
- They would give dignity to the remains of their beloved friend
Ministering to Him in death.....as they had ministered to Him in life

So who were these women ?

Mary Magdalene we know of.....A woman of disrepute.....freed from demonic bondage
Probably in her late twenties or early 30's

Mary the mother of James.....it seems was a close companion of Mary
It may well be that she had taken her under her wing.....

For this Mary.....and the other lady Salome.....**were both older women**

Both had sons who were Apostles

Mary's son James was called the less....

Salome was the mother of James and John

Men who were in their mid to late 30's

Which made their Mum's middle age.....Probably grandmothers

So bearing that in mind.....Consider the courage of these three women

- They knew that the tomb was guarded
- They were aware of the danger of being associated
- And they knew.....that when they got to.....Problem of the stone.....(talked)

So here we have these 3 women.....arriving at the tomb
And its open

They came expecting an ending.....But immediately a Beginning beckons

And we can imagine the nervousness...with which they ducked their heads to enter

And their before them.....a young man dressed.....**Knew he was angel !!**

And Mark says that they were **alarmed ==> Terrified**

- **To be in such close** proximity to the supernatural.....is always shown to be
...a terrifying experience

Then the angel gave the message.....that is the Pinnacle of the Gospel of Mark

This is truth about Jesus that Mark has spent 15 chapters leading up to

You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified

...he says

HE HAS RISEN! HE IS NOT HERE

...and whats more....He is going ahead into Galilee where you will see Him

Just as He said He would

Such A strong reminder to us....that Jesus predicted His death....resurrection.....
And in Mark 14:28.....organized His reunion with them in Galilee....way before

This morning.....put yourself in the place of...as they faced....

Think how you would have felt

Have acted

They were traumatized by what they saw..... heard.....and they fled from the tomb

What had just happened was too awesome.....

too fearful to speak of to those they passed

They had come to honour the end.....only to discover a Beginning

So Incredible.....So hard to comprehend.....To understand

- **That they did tell** the Apostles when they reached them.....is clear from....Gospels

And I believe that Mark ends his Gospel with this....so easy to understand reaction

So as to Stress.....How earthshattering.....How stunning....How incredible

The Fact of Christ's Resurrection is

It changed those women's lives.....It utterly changed the disciples' lives

And it changes ours too

Once we accept Jesus as our Risen Saviour.....**then life** is never the same

We have a whole new Priority.....For our life is now eternal.....not just for 70

A whole new Mission...For we are to live as those heading for heaven...by the power

A whole new relationship.....With a Saviour who has forgiven.....and lives w/in

- **And It is this total forgiveness**.....that is truly the most wonderful result of...R

A Forgiveness illustrated....by two words in the angel's message

AND PETER

Peter who had denied Jesus with cursing.....**Peter** who had fled from the cross
Peter who wept with guilt as they lead Jesus away

Yet especially for Peter.....came this message of hope
Of a New Beginning

And that's been true for everyone ever since

It doesn't matter how often we let our Saviour down.....He forgives us
And He makes what seems an end.....Into a new beginning.

This morning.....are you looking for a new beginning
Then put your trust in Jesus....Resurrected Saviour....Coming King

For this Almighty Lord will transform.....For Ever