

“THE DAY THAT WORRY DIED”

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Subject: How God Removes Anxiety From Daily Life

Introduction

Fact: Mark 16:1-8 is a passage that speaks to everybody.

Fact: It is a passage that convicts us and comforts us (and goes deep into every heart).

The Setting Is Clear:

- ◆ Jesus has just been crucified and buried.
- ◆ All hopes have been dashed for those who loved Him.
- ◆ If there was ever a time to worry it was now.
- ◆ If there was ever an uplifting word from God, now is the time for it to arrive.

Question: How many of you have ever worried about something?

Question: How many of you have ever had your “hopes deferred”?

Question: How many of you have ever “let down” the Lord in even a small matter?

I. The Walking Of the Faithful (v.1 & 2)

(v. 1) *“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome had bought sweet spices that they might come and anoint Him”. (Jesus)*

(v. 2) *“And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun.”*

Question: Who is walking towards the tomb where Jesus is?

Answer: Four women; Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna (Luke 24:10)

Question: What time of day is it as the women are walking?

Answer: *“The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, **when it was dark.**”*
(John 20:1)

Question: Why are the women walking in the dark?

Answer: Because they were observing the law of the Sabbath. (Luke 23:56)

“And they returned and prepared spices and ointments, and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment.”

(In other words)

- ◆ Sometime after 6 pm on Saturday evening (when the Sabbath ended) the women bring the spices to anoint the body of Jesus.
- ◆ Sometime after 6 pm on Saturday (they take a walk they don’t want to take).
- ◆ Sometime after 6 pm on Saturday (it is a journey that everybody takes at some time).

Question: What kind of walk are they taking?

Answer: A walk that can affect your heart, feelings, emotions and outlook:

1. They had seen their loved one die.
2. They had seen Jesus placed in a tomb.
3. They had seen their expectations disappointed.
4. They had purchased spices to perform the final duty to the body.
5. They had stayed with Joseph of Arimathea until he had closed the tomb.
6. They were weighed down with grief and sorrow and carried burdens beyond description.
7. They were walking the Calvary Road.

Question: What is the Calvary Road?

Answer: It is the road you walk when your faith is being tested:

- ◆ When your expectations have turned to disappointments.
- ◆ When your plans don't turn out the way you planned.
- ◆ When something you hoped in didn't transpire.
- ◆ When you feel vulnerable to fiery darts of discouragement.
- ◆ When you feel fragile and unsure of what lies ahead.

II. The Worry Of The Mind

"And they said among themselves, who shall roll us away the stone from the door?" (v. 3)

Question: What was on the mind of the women as they were walking down the road?

Answer: It was something that was consuming their thoughts and causing tension!

Question: What was their worry in v. 3?

Answer: "Who is going to roll away the stone when we get to the tomb?"

"Who is going to open the door so we can anoint the body of Jesus?"

"Who is going to lift the heavy rock that we can't lift ourselves?"

"Who will ever remove the obstacle that is keeping us from Jesus?"

"Who, what, where, when, why; how is it all going to unfold down the road?"

Question: Have you ever slipped in your own believing, optimism, faith and attitude?

Question: Ever had to talk to yourself and say, "Hey you, what in the world are you doing fretting like this?"

(What is happening to these women?)

1. It appears their labor of love (to anoint the body of Jesus with spices) is in vain.
2. It appears that all their hopes are resting on their own strength alone.
3. It appears that their difficulty is leaving them perplexed (and stealing the joy of the journey).

Question: Why can't the women enjoy their ministry to Jesus?

Answer: Because of two reasons!

1. They remember the strong men who placed a huge stone to close the tomb! (and)
2. They look at themselves and see their own limitations.

(These are sensible women)

- ◆ They are practical and thinking (not hysterical or deceived).
- ◆ They saw with their own eyes the sepulcher, the body, the stone and the obstacle.

- ◆ They are consumed with one thought: “How are we ever going to remove the stone from the doorway?”

(Isn't it interesting?)

1. That they know they cannot get to Jesus because of the huge stone in the way, yet -
2. They are still walking forward with their spices in their hands.

Question: Why carry the spices for nothing if you know you can't even get to use them?

Answer: Because sometimes we walk totally by faith (even when our feelings, emotions and circumstances say, “You are wasting your time.”)

(The devil has whispered this to some of you)

- ◆ “You are wasting your time in following Jesus.”
- ◆ “You are wasting your energy seeking God.”
- ◆ “Your loved ones will never get saved.”
- ◆ “Your kids will never come home.”
- ◆ “Your sins will never be conquered.”
- ◆ “Your huge stones will never be removed.”

(And you are tempted like the four women)

- ◆ To fret and worry and not enjoy the journey
- ◆ To be consumed with your own limitations instead of God's great ability.
- ◆ To go through the motions outwardly, while inside you are churning and anxious in spirit.

III. The Wonder Of The Lord (v. 4)

“And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away; for it was very great.”
(v. 4)

Question: What did the “worrying women” discover when they reached the stone they worried about?

Answer:

1. **They discovered** that what they had worried about had already been addressed by the Lord! (I repeat)
2. **They discovered** that God had gone before them (ahead of them) to do what they couldn't do for themselves.
3. **They discovered** that difficulties too great for us are taken care of by hands greater than our own.
4. **They discovered** that what was impossible with them, God had already brought to pass.

**(And on their way to Galilee to see Jesus,
the four women probably said to each other)**

- ◆ “Can you believe it, we worried all that way for nothing.”
- ◆ “Can you imagine, we wasted all that time fretting for nothing.”
- ◆ “Can you beat that, our anticipated trouble was already taken care of.”

Question: What is God saying in all of this?

Secrets from the worried women that speak to every heart..

1. It is not my job to roll away the stones, it's just my job to go after Jesus!
 2. It's is not my job to have all the answers, it's just my responsibility to be devoted to Jesus!
 3. It's not my job to worry how God is going to do it, it's just my job to trust God to do it!
 4. It is not my job to fret over tomorrow, it's just my job to love Jesus today!
- ◆ But, I don't deserve a miracle when it's necessary!!!

(God has a word for you)

IV. The Witness Of Peter To Us All (v. 5-8)

In v. 7 the angel said, *"But go your way, tell his disciples **and Peter** that He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him as He said unto you."*

Question: What is the revelation in v. 7?

Answer: That grace triumphs over every sin! (And) love will find you in your lowest valley!

Question: How can I believe that Jesus will work wonders in my life? (After all)

- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know my faith is sinking?
- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know how unworthy I feel?
- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know my past sin and failures?
- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know how I've let Him down?
- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know I've been drifting?
- ◆ Doesn't the Lord know all the bad things I've done?

v. 7 says: *"Go tell His disciples **and Peter**"* (v. 7)

Question: Why did the angel say, *"Go tell the good news to the disciples **and Peter.**"*

Answer: Because God knew that Peter was crushed!

- ◆ God knew it would be extremely difficult for Peter to face the other disciples.
- ◆ Peter had proclaimed his spirituality so loudly (**and had failed so greatly**).

Question: Why was Peter devastated (and extended the grace of God one more time?)

Answer: Because Peter had failed so miserably beforehand:

1. Peter was presumptuous (Matthew 16:22)
2. Peter was cowardly. (Matthew 14:30)
3. Peter was selfish. (Matthew 19:27)
4. Peter was conceited. (Matthew 26:33)
5. Peter was slipping. (Matthew 26:40)
6. Peter was distant. (Matthew 26:48)
7. Peter was denying. (John 18:25)
8. Peter was blasphemous. (Mark 14:70)
9. Peter was cursing. (Mark 14:71)
10. Peter was weeping. (Matthew 26:75)
11. Peter was in bad company. (John 18:18)
12. Peter was drowning. (Matthew 14:30)

(In other words)

- ◆ Peter never thought he could rebound again!
- ◆ He thought for sure, he had sinned away his day of grace!

(So the angel says to the women)

*“Go tell the disciples **and Peter** that Jesus wants to meet up with you shortly.”*

(In other words)

- ◆ The one who had fallen the furthest (**Peter**) receives a word of forgiveness and a summons to meet Jesus again!
- ◆ It is an individual word to **Peter** and to your heart as well!
- ◆ Jesus wants to reunite Peter in relationship, so that Peter can be recommissioned.
- ◆ It is a plea for reinstatement to anyone who has drifted away from Jesus.
- ◆ It is a revelation that regardless of how far you’ve fallen, or how long you’ve drifted, God has your rebound in store for you today!

Question: Why is there great power and anointing in those two words in v. 7?
“And Peter”

1. Because Peter will now discover that there is one thing that sin cannot do; it cannot make Jesus stop loving you!
2. Peter discovers that the Lord doesn’t deal with us in the crowd, but one on one.
3. Peter discovers that the Lord doesn’t want to expose and exploit him, but to restore and renew him, real soon.
4. Peter discovers that whatever your weakness that brings you down, can be overcome by the power of God.
5. Peter discovers that God will never give up and can transform the character of anyone who wants to be changed!

Question: Why is grace abounding for everyone in this place today?

Answer: Because the Lord sees your potential (what you can become, not just what you are).

Question: Can the grace of God really change me?

Answer: In Acts 5:29 it was Peter restored who said when threatened, *“We ought to obey God rather than men.”*

Altar Call:

- ◆ Whether you worry over something outside of your control or,
- ◆ Whether you have sinned and need to be restored to Jesus (God has a word for you).

“Where worry or sin abounds, grace much more abounds.”

Amen!
 Bill Kirk