



## A Beautiful Thing

Mark 16:1-8 | Ryan Pfeiffer | April 9, 2023

REAL- no one is expecting Jesus to rise. Even ends with “afraid”!

- no airbrushing this—> no insta filter—> No smoke machine and lights

POINT- Jesus is not even here! —> He’s already moved on.

- If you want LIFE to the FULLEST... come join me.

MARK begins w/ women wondering... Hey who’s gonna move the 2 ton stone?

FOCUS: That STONE represents the BARRIERS we have in believing and living in the power of Jesus’ resurrection life.

- For some of us... the barrier is believing that this is a real moment?
- For others... the barrier relevance... what difference does it make today?

HOW DOES MARK HELP US KNOW THIS IS REAL? v1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.

- 1st century world... a woman’s testimony in court held next to 0 weight.
- To keep it extra real... Mary Magdalene had 7 demons cast out of her.

If Mark had INVENTED this story he wouldn’t use women as key witness.

Celsus (2nd Cent Grk Philo) trying to discredit Christianity said something to the effect of: Christianity can’t be true, because the written accounts of the resurrection are based on the testimony of women—and we all know women are hysterical.

This isn’t a moment someone would make up. It wouldn’t hold credibility.

BUT- the authenticating fingerprint- Savior- loves make outsiders-insiders.

- Who “chooses the weak and foolish things to shame the wise and strong”
- Jesus chooses this group of women to be HIS first to proclaim He’s Risen!

THE SECOND BARRIER IS THE RELEVANCE. What difference... today? 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Why... “and Peter” —> Peter had promised to stand by Jesus.

- Instead Peter disowned Jesus 3X’s!
- He thought he had enough courage... only to find cowardice.
- No one feels more like an outsider than Peter.

FIRST: Jesus' resurrection means there is forgiveness/NEW LIFE for everyone.

There is no one too far from God... no one God can't reach.

Maybe you're thinking

- you're not spiritual enough...
- you've waited too long... my dad ... "I'm too old... how can God forgive me?"
- you've got too many doubts...
- you're too angry with the institutional Church...
- maybe there's a wound of disappointment with God...

Jesus has already gone ahead of you and prepared a way thru every barrier.  
He offers forgiveness for our sin and strength in our weakness.

SECOND: Jesus' resurrection means unshakable HOPE.

Hope is more relevant than ever! Hope is confidence/peace today about tomorrow.  
Anxiety is a future oriented disease... the uncertainty... fear... dread of what's ahead.

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life... whoever lives by believing in me will never die."  
John 11:25-26.

Our HOPE comes from what we believe in... what do you believe in?  
Your friends/ family? Your career? Your dreams?

vs 7 "He (Jesus) is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him".

Notice... Jesus doesn't say I'll see you in heaven! No... GALILEE... HOME!

Jesus' gone ahead of us... HOPE...

- Our loneliness, our grief our doubt is NOT THE END...
- Injustice, evil, and cancer is not the end... death is NOT THE END.

Where do you need Jesus' HOPE to breakthrough in your life?  
Mark ends his account with a CALL and CLIFF hanger...

What will the women do?

- Will they Believe & tell others... or remain frozen in their fear.

We know eventually the women not only tell the disciples but the whole world.  
Jesus is calling YOU in the same way to believe in his resurrection life and power.

Jesus says... "I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. Luke 12:8.