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| 1  Mark 15:40-16:8  12/03/23  “Confronting Your Fears And Failures”  INTRO:  “There is a preacher of the old school, but he speaks about as boldly as ever today. He's not very popular, even though the world is his parish, and he travels to every part of the globe, and he speaks in every language. He visits the poor. He visits the rich. He preaches to people of every religion, and he preaches to many of no religion. And the subject of his sermon is always the same. It never changes. He is an eloquent preacher, and he is able to stir emotions in hearts that are not emotional. He is able to bring tears to eyes that seldom weep. His arguments are beyond refutation. There is no heart that remains untouched and unmoved by the force of his appeals. This preacher shatters life. | 2  This preacher disturbs the status quo. Most people hate him. Everybody listens to him. His name is death. Every tombstone is his pulpit. Every newspaper prints his text. And one day you will be the subject of his sermon, and he will stand at your graveside and preach to others...”  MAIN POINT:  Today, you are going to see this enemy called death defeated. And because this enemy is defeated, you can confront your fears and failures with the reality of the resurrection so that you can walk in newness of life.  BODY:  Before we get into the text…  Mark 16:9-20 is in brackets in most English translations of Bible.  Probably in most of your Bibles it will have brackets and footnote saying it’s not in earliest manuscripts |
| 3  This gets into “textual criticism”  Not “criticism” = inspiration/authority of Bible  but  “criticism” = critical of what original manuscript would have said  textual criticism = scientific process where all manuscripts are compared and contrasted to figure out original  Why?  We don’t have original copies of the old and new testament books, but…  Because it was inspired by God and precious, people made thousands upon thousands of copies  But if you ever copied something word for word, you know that people make mistakes from time to time like skipping a line, duplicating a word, etc. | 4  Now scribes who copied the original and the copies of the copies were remarkably accurate and disciplined, far more than we could ever be  But even still, they are still human and from hours upon hours of copying fatigue sets in, and you might miss a word or see two words as one, etc.  That’s where textual criticism comes in to fix those human errors so to speak and to present to us the original reading of the text  I am only saying this to encourage and bolster your trust and confidence in God’s Word that what you have in your lap is truly what God’s Word says  I want to point the incredible work of God in making sure His word was preserved accurately through the ages  For Example.  We have about 5600 Greek manuscripts, Homer’s Iliad is the second most preserved ancient manuscript and it’s not even close, no comparison |
| 5  Iliad has about 1700 copies, and the earliest copy is 500 years after when Homer wrote his original, far more likely that the original text would be corrupted, and nobody questions the authenticity of the Iliad  But people attack the authenticity of the Scriptures but you have copies that are incredibly close to when the originals were written like the Ryland’s fragment which has the Gospel of John written in 125 AD, which is barely after the apostle John died.  -Of course it’s under attack, because it’s the very  Word of God which people hate  Those 5600 manuscripts is for the Greek language alone. If you include Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic translations add about 19,000 manuscripts for a total of over 24,000 copies of partial or whole copies of the books of the New Testament.  So all that to say you can have complete confidence that God’s Word is God’s Word. | 6  So without further ado, let’s get into the text:  Mark 15:40 comes right after crucifixion in which Gentile centurion confesses that Jesus truly is the Son of God  Final Markan sandwich:  15:40-41: Women at the cross  15:42-46 Joseph of Arimathea before Pilate  15:47-16:8 Women at the tomb  V. 40: “The Women At The Cross”  Mary Magdalene = Luke 8:2 Jesus cast out seven demons from her  Mary = mother of James the Less (one of the twelve) and of Joses  Salome = Mother of James and John (two disciples of Jesus)  They were *“following”* and *“serving”* Jesus in Galilee and other women following |
| 7  V. 42 “Joseph of Arimathea Before Pilate”  V. 43 = *“prominent Council (lit. Sanhedrin) member”*  *“who himself is waiting for the kingdom of God”*  Some say he wasn’t saved/not antagonistic towards Jesus  but…He was saved  Luke 23:50 = *“good and righteous man”*  -Unbelievers = not righteous  Luke 23:51 *“he had not consented to their counsel and action”*  Most clearly: Matt. 27:57 + John 19:28  = *“disciple of Jesus”* although secretly for fear of Jews  Not only this: He went up to Pilate “boldly” or “gathered up courage” to ask him for Jesus’ body | 8  Joseph risked everything: career, reputation, money, his life  Risked being seen as sympathizer to Jesus  Possibly executed  Possibly scorn from fellow countrymen  Plus he would be unclean for Sabbath for dressing a corpse  Furthermore, what was in it for Him if he was an unbelieving Jew? His Messiah died, the kingdom is gone  But Joseph trusted that the kingdom of God would come somehow, someway  V. 44 Pilate wants to make sure Jesus is dead and then grants body to Joseph  V. 46: With help from Roman soldiers, puts Jesus in tomb and seals the tomb |
| 9  V. 47 Final part of Markan sandwich:  “The Women At The Tomb”  Read VV. 15:47-16:8  16:1  Three women buy spices to anoint Jesus’ body (to keep from smelling)  V. 2 They come very early on Sunday, after Sabbath passed when sun had risen  “Who’s going to roll away the stone for us?”  V. 4 Stone is rolled away and it was very large  They were worried about the stone but Jesus talked about His resurrection, stone shouldn’t be an issue  But they find entrance to tomb is open and young man sitting on right side, white robe, “amazed”! | 10  young man = angel from the Lord  But told women read verses 6-7  Stone was rolled away not for Jesus but for women  Jesus can walk through walks after all!  To show tomb was empty!  Jesus in grace and mercy wants to remind disciples and especially Peter His promise to meet them in Galilee after He was raised  Meet them specifically in Galilee:  At place where they:  First called as disciples  Saw His deity and power but were slow to believe  Faith failed in the stormy sea |
| 11  They will remember their discipleship journey with Jesus through a new lens: resurrected lens  But…  Instead of obedience women flees from the tomb (read verse 8)  Mark’s gospel ends right there. That’s it. What?!  What an unusual ending!  Was Mark unable to finish? No  Did the ending get lost somehow?  I believe someone added to the ending of Mark to end on a happier note  -Understandable why they would do that  but…defeats whole purpose of ending  First off, Mark is contrasting Joseph’s obedience with women’s disobedience | 12  Joseph risked everything by asking Pilate  Women were watching from a distance like Peter  Women were commanded by angel not to be amazed but they were amazed  Women were commanded to tell disciples and Peter, but instead they fled the tomb in fear and told no one about it  We know from other accounts that they did eventually tell disciples but it was delayed obedience  “Amazed” = indication of absence of faith  Also see “afraid” and “astonishment” and “tremling/fear” = contrast to faith in Lord  “afraid” = *phobos* = Mk. 4:41  *“And they became very afraid and were saying to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”* |
| 13  Matt.’s account = women fled both in fear and joy  But Mark leaves out joy and focuses on fear  Mark also is the only Gospel to leave out the physical encounter with the risen Christ  Why?  Because He is inviting you, challenging you to see risen Christ with eyes of faith  Wanting you to respond to risen Lord not like women in fear but in obedience in proclaiming the Son of God  To be like Joseph, willing to risk your life on the line to honor the sacrificial work of Jesus on the cross  Although ends on fear and failure, ultimately = hopeful  Because Son of God, risen, now starts over with disciples in mercy and grace | 14  They were  hard-hearted  blind  distrusting  fearful  worldly  All abandoned Him and Peter vocally denied Him 3 times  But though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning  His mercies are new every morning  Despite all their fears and failures, they are shown mercy and grace  And despite all your fears and failures, Christ wants to meet you at “Galilee” where you can be discipled in resurrected power. |
| 15  As disciple you have failed Christ in one way or another  Perhaps for 1000th time, you promised Lord never to commit this sin again!  How could you love me Lord who have failed you time and time again  How could you forgive me of my failure?  And you’re not alone…probably disciples thought the same  Remember John’s Gospel?  After crucifixion, Peter and others go back to fishing career  They thought it was over. They lost hope  But it wasn’t over, it was just the beginning….  How does Mark 1:1 start? | 16  *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God”*  How does it end?  The resurrection of Jesus Christ…  but not true end  The resurrection is only the beginning of the end  true end of story = Jesus returns one day to earth to rid all villains opposed to His majesty  You ask? Why does Jesus need to be raised?  If Jesus wasn’t raised, you would be forgiven, but not righteous.  If Jesus didn’t die on the cross for you, you would be:  -unsaved  -unforgiven  -unloved  -unredeemed |
| 17  But praise God that He went to the cross!  But if you just had the cross, and no resurrection, you would have only a dead Savior where death has triumphed and has held Christ captive  Death always penalty for sin  Not only spiritual, but finally culminating in physical  Ez. 18:20 *“The soul that sins shall die”*  Rom 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death”*  A dead savior would not be able to declare you righteous before God  Romans 4:25  *“He (Jesus) was delivered over on account of our transgressions, and was raised on account of our justification.”* | 18  Just like how high priest not only had to slay animal but carry its blood to holy of holies to sprinkle the mercy seat  So Christ not only had to die as a sacrifice, but to carry His body out of the grave as a sacrifice acceptable to God  -And to credit Christ’s merits to your account  That’s why Paul said in 1 Cor. 15 if Christ was not raise  -Their preaching vain  -Faith also in vain  -Nothing more than false witnesses  -Most to be pitied  -Faith would be worthless  -Still be in your sins  But because He is risen you can walk in newness of life  Because He is risen - walk in newness of life |
| 19  Because He is risen - set mind on things above  Because He risen – no longer fear death  -death no longer has mastery over you  “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY!”  So Christian, now that Christ is risen, what will you do with your life?  Respond in fear or in faith?  Whole world out there imprisoned in death and hell  Christ has secured victory over death  Will you go and proclaim that He is risen?  And…  For those who haven’t trusted in Christ…  Death is your Lord | 20  Death is your master…  Death will follow you wherever you go….  Death will be to you as Job says, the “king of terrors”  If you don’t turn from your sins and trust in Jesus to save you from your sins  Death will be proclaiming His victory over you at your grave  You will taste the second death in hell forever  You are not dead so far and Jesus has not returned back because as 2 Peter 3:9 says God is,  *“patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”*  Salvation is simple… |
| 21  *“if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* -Rom. 10:9  If you do, when you die, death won’t be preaching at your funeral, it will be Christ preaching at your funeral  What will you do?  Will you flee away from Him towards death  or  Will you flee to Him for eternal life?  Pray  Communion | 22 |