

The Resurrection Morning.

Mark 16:1-8

Sunday morning, April 12, 2002.

I. Strong love and devotion.

A. The women involved:

1. Mary Magdalene

She was from the city of Magdala on the south-west shore of the Sea of Galilee. She has been identified as the woman who was a sinner who washed Jesus feet. Also she has been identified with the woman taken in adultery who was saved by the Lord from stoning. She is also often thought of as one who was a prostitute. None of these assertions are supported by Scripture.

2. Mary the mother of James (the less, or the smaller one) and his brother Joses.

3. Salome; the mother of the disciples James and John who had asked of Jesus if her two sons might sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom.

4. Luke adds Joanna; she was the wife of Chuza, one of Herod's stewards. Joanna had been healed by the Lord, and she later ministered to Him of her own substance. Luke 8:2,3.

5. Luke adds that there were other unnamed women also. Luke 24:10.

B. Their preparation.

When the Sabbath was past...

1. This was on Saturday at sundown. At that time many of the little roadside businesses would open briefly for a few hours, giving people an opportunity to buy needed supplies for the coming day. At this time these women bought

their

spices.

2. Very early in the morning. John says that it was still dark. In all likelihood they came from Bethany; about a half hour walk to the grave. They left while it was still dark and would have arrived as the sun rose.

3. This was the first opportunity these women had to anoint the body of the Lord. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had simply bound the body of Jesus in linen strips while layering in a mixture of spices; a hundred pounds John 19:39.

C. The dangers they faced.

1. The early morning hour; "while it was still dark." dangers along the road.

2. The soldiers at the grave.

3. The many enemies in high places in Jerusalem.

4. The act of visiting the grave and showing honor to one who was put to death as a common criminal was not without risk.

D. What moved these women to visit the Lord's grave at this early hour?

1. These were women who had tasted of the Lord's pardoning mercies.

2. They had experienced His healing powers.

3. They sat under His teaching ministry and had received light and hope, comfort and peace through Him.

4. They loved Him much and were willing to take great risk to honor Him once more. "Love is strong as death... many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it." Song of Solomon 8:6,7.

Application:

Why are we not possessed by a stronger attachment to Jesus?

Why is the slightest inconvenience enough for us to part company with Him, not to mention any real danger or cost to us?

How seldom do we meet a believer who will face real danger and go through fire and flood for the sake of Jesus?

1. It is the feeble sense of sin and forgiveness which produce a feeble sense of the value of our redemption.
2. A slight sense of our debt to God produces a slight sense of gratitude and love toward God in the light of His forgiveness.
3. It is those who know themselves the recipients of much grace who love much.

Do you have a sense of your own sinfulness as well as the Lord's grace?

II. Obstacles in seeking Jesus.

“Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us? (it was very large)”

- A. Not only did these women endanger themselves in going to the tomb this early, but in addition they were in a sense on a fools errand not bringing any men along to move the large stone.
- B. They discuss it among themselves, but there is no attempt to turn around or to look for the help of some of the disciples. They simply move along, driven onward by their faith and love toward the Savior.
- C. In doing so they illustrate the truth that in the process of seeking for Jesus, God Himself will provide for you what you need to find Him.
- D. So it was with the Wise men at the birth of Christ; with Simeon and Anna in the temple; with Cornelius and with the Ethiopian eunuch. In the OT the crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan, and the walls of Jericho are examples of this truth.

Application:

What is the obstacle in your life that keeps you from finding Jesus? What is your large stone? Is it your blindness? Your ignorance? Your unbelief? Your sins? Your hard heart? Remember the lesson of these women. Against all odds they kept going; seeking Jesus. The obstacle gave way, and before long they came face to face with the risen Lord.

III. No rebuke.

Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him.”

- A. No rebuke for the women who came to anoint a dead body when the Lord had said He would rise on the third day.
- B. No rebuke for the disciples; not even for Peter; not even for not being there with the women at the tomb; not even for forgetting the Lord's own words about His rising again.

Application:

When we seek Jesus; even in all our blindness and ignorance, unbelief and hardness of heart, we only meet stones that are rolled away; fullness of grace and forgiveness, and at last the living, risen Lord Himself. Do you know Him as such?