



RBC CONNECT GROUP STUDY FOR WEEK 12/4/2020

EASTER DAY - HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

¹ 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. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 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.'"

⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid."

The centuries old greeting to one another on Easter Sunday may have its roots in the proclamations from the empty tomb.

Mark 16:6 "He has risen! He is not here."

Matthew 28:5 "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

Luke 24:6 "He is not here; he has risen!"

In John's gospel Mary has a direct encounter with the resurrected Jesus.

This one fact alone is the very centrepiece of the Christian faith. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians (to correct spurious teaching) addressing the centrality of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead to Christian doctrine.

1 Corinthians 15:14 & 15

"And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."

Let's start at the end of the reading.

1) Why do you think the women were afraid?

Back to the beginning.

2) What is the significance of the opening statement "When the Sabbath was over?"

3) Why do you think the women "bought spices" to the tomb?

4) In every gospel account of this event, who are those that come to the tomb?

The question could reasonably be asked...

5) Where were the men?

Where were they? Why?

The women were hoping to perform one last act of service to Jesus by coming to the tomb.

For private reflection:

6) What was the last act of real service you did to/for Jesus?

As you consider this account of the continuing story of Jesus:

7) What are the implications for you of Jesus rising from the dead?

Finally, Jesus was present, and then he wasn't.

8) How do you experience the presence and absence of Jesus?

I leave you with the words of a song:

*Hallelujah, Jesus is alive death has lost its victory
And the grave has been denied and Jesus lives forever.
He's alive! He's alive!
He's the Alpha and Omega; the first and last is He
The curse of sin is broken and we have perfect liberty
The lamb of God has risen He's alive! He's alive!*

"He IS Risen! He IS Risen Indeed!"

Next week we will begin our Bible study on the Kingdom of God.