

EASTER SUNDAY

Mark 16:1-8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Hindsight is 2020: We've all had moments when we think, how might something be different "if I had known then what I know now." Please share a time when you might have done something differently if you knew how it would have turned out? With this story in mind, how do the verses from Mark 16 help you or challenge you?

In the time of Jesus's death, it was common to "bury" people in caves with a large rock in front of the entrance. Imagine burying someone in the tomb and showing up a few days later to see the "door open" and a young man sitting there. What are the first few thoughts that might come to mind? Who do you think the young man in verse 5 was? Jesus? An angel?

Think about the three women who are written into the resurrection story in Mark, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James (a disciple), and (Mary) Salome (mother of the disciples James and John). All three witnessed the crucifixion. Why do you think Jesus (or the angel) revealed that He has risen to them?

Verse 8 attributes a lack of action, "said nothing to anyone" to fear. What holds you back from saying or doing something, even when you know "the rest of the story"?

In the sermon, Pastor Jon talked about the possibility of hope being "dead" among the disciples after Jesus died and was buried. He pointed to the belief that Jesus could have saved himself, and when he did not, the hope in the Savior was lost. Describe how you might feel before the Resurrection if you were one of the 12 disciples and/or the family members who saw the crucifixion. (Remember Peter in Matthew 26... Jesus told him he would deny HIM three times, and Peter said "never"... but who is in hiding after the death of Jesus?)

Pastor Jon also shared why we celebrate Easter, "At Easter, we celebrate not something that was written, we celebrate not a set of rules for living, we celebrate not a disconnected angry God...on Easter, we celebrate an event, we celebrate an event that confirmed that there is a God, we celebrate an event that confirmed that God is the author not just of life but of your life, we celebrate the event that confirmed that God is not finished, and he is not finished with your life and my life." In this context, what does Easter mean to you, and how would you explain it to someone who does not know what you know about the power of the Resurrection?

APPLICATION

During Covid, we have faced more than a year of global uncertainty, including death, political divisiveness, violence toward diverse populations, the concept of white privilege, job loss, financial insecurity, increased challenges to mental health, and more. How does your faith impact your ability to cope with prolonged periods of uncertainty? What Bible verses can you share that helps give you comfort? Consider sharing these verses as a group to give each other hope. How can you share these with those who don't know God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit today?

