



THE GOD OF THE BROKEN

Mark 16:1-7

- Next weekend at Celebration we're beginning *The God Of The Broken* series, which will be a study through the first two chapters of the Book of Exodus.
- In the early chapters of the Book of Exodus, the people of God were "broken" because of the hardship and heartache they'd experienced in Egypt, much like the hardship and heartache experienced by people in our world in the past 12 months.
- Today we're celebrating Jesus' resurrection from the grave, but even on the day of His resurrection Jesus was reaching out to people with broken hearts and lives.
- *"Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as He told you before He died.'" (Mark 16:1-7)*
- **The resurrection of Jesus is one of the best substantiated facts in history, but the question is, "What does Jesus' resurrection mean to us in our day?"**

Mark's Version Of The Easter Story Reminds Us That:

GOD OFFERS HEALING TO THOSE WHO ARE HURTING

- *"Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb." (Mark 16:1-2)*
- **Mary Magdalene had been rescued from a dysfunctional and defeated life by Jesus, and had become a devout follower of the Lord.**
- *"Those who have been forgiven most by the Lord seem to love Him more." (Anonymous)*

- **Mary and the other women who came to Jesus' tomb were struggling with grief and hurt because of the tragic death of Jesus on Calvary's cross.**
- *"Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. 'Why are you crying?' the angels asked her. 'Because they have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put Him.'" (John 20:11-13)*
- **People experience grief and hurt because of the loss of loved ones, loss of relationships, loss of dreams, loss of hope, etc, and grief is one of life's most devastating emotions because it robs us of joy, peace and hope.**
- *"But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body.'" (Mark 16:4-6)*
- **Jesus' resurrection from the grave reminds us that there is hope in the present and for the future for those who are hurting and grieving.**
- *"Mary glanced over her shoulder and saw someone standing behind her. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. 'Why are you crying?' Jesus asked her. 'Who are you looking for?' She thought He was the gardener. 'Sir,' she said, 'if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will go and get Him.' 'Mary!' Jesus said. She turned toward him and exclaimed, 'Teacher!' 'Don't cling to Me,' Jesus said, 'for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, 'I have seen the Lord!'" (John 20:14-18)*
- **If you're hurting or grieving, experiencing the Lord's presence will bring healing and help to you just like it did with Mary Magdalene.**

Mark's Version Of The Easter Story Reminds Us That:

GOD OFFERS HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING

- The Angel - *"You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body. Now go and tell His disciples . . ."* (Mark 16:6-7)
- **The Disciples of Jesus were struggling with grief, but they were also struggling with anxiety and fear in their lives.**
- **Worry and fear, like grief, robs us of joy, peace, faith and hope in our lives.**
- ***What causes me to be anxious or fearful in my life?***
- The Lord - *"Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9)
- **The Disciples were also struggling to find purpose in their lives.**
- *"My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all."* (Isaiah 49:4)
- **We can overcome worry, fear and purposelessness in our lives by relying on the Lord's promises.**

- *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear . . .”* (Psalm 46:1-2)
- The Lord - *“I will never fail you; I will never abandon you.”* (Hebrews 13:5)
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

Mark’s Version Of The Easter Story Reminds Us That:

GOD OFFERS HELP TO THOSE WHO ARE FAILING

- The Angel - *“Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died.”* (Mark 16:7)
- **Peter struggled greatly with the fact that He had failed the Lord Jesus.**
- *“As Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, a servant girl came over and said to him, ‘You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.’ But Peter denied it in front of everyone. ‘I don’t know what you are talking about,’ he said. Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. ‘I don’t even know the man,’ he said. A little later some other bystanders came over to him and said, ‘You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.’ Peter said, ‘I swear by God, I don’t know the man.’ And immediately the rooster crowed. Suddenly, Jesus’ words flashed through Peter’s mind: ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.’ And he went away, crying bitterly.* (Matthew 26:69-75)
- **Failure robs us of joy, peace, faith and hope in our lives.**
- ***What failures in my life have hindered my relationships with God and others?***
- *“God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”* (Romans 8:28)
- **People aren’t “failures” because they fall down, but because they fail to get up.**
- **We can overcome every failure in our lives when we rely on the power of the Lord.**
- Peter on the Day of Pentecost - *“So let it be clearly known by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah!”* (Acts 2:36)
- Peter - *“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by His great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation . . .”* (1 Peter 1:3)

- **Like Mary Magdalene, Peter and the Disciples we can receive healing, hope and help because Jesus has risen from the grave and lives today.**
- ***What steps do I need to take to receive healing, hope and/or help from the Lord today?***
- **This Easter I’m going to:**
 - ___ **Receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord**
 - ___ **Commit to start attending Church regularly**
 - ___ **Ask for some resources that will help strengthen my relationship with Jesus**
 - ___ **Participate in the upcoming Church Serve Day so I can help others**
 - ___ **Attend *First Steps* event so I can learn how to walk with God and get connected to the Celebration Church family**

Demonstrate my commitment to Jesus by being baptized

Connect with godly Christians (*Life Group*) for support and encouragement