



Introduction

Title: The Empty Tomb

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Theme: Out of all those dozens of movements, one movement and only one movement didn't collapse after the death of the leader. Not only did it not collapse, but it exploded. In over 2000 years, it essentially took over the Roman Empire and today it is by far the largest religious faith on the face of the earth. The only reason why the Christian Church claims to still exist is because its leader came back from the dead.

Discussion

Read Mark 16:1-8

Jesus loved women and treated them with great respect and dignity. The New Testament's teaching on women developed His perspective even more. The value of women that permeates the New Testament isn't found in the Greco-Roman culture. In ancient Greece, a respectable woman was not allowed to leave the house unless she was accompanied by a trustworthy male escort. A wife was not permitted to eat or interact with male guests in her husband's home. The status of Roman women was also very low. Roman law placed a wife under the absolute control of her husband, who had ownership of her and all her possessions. He could divorce her if she went out in public without a veil. A husband had the power of life and death over his wife.

1. How much dignity and honor is Jesus restoring to women by having Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome be the first to proclaim His resurrection?

Read Mark 14:72 and Matthew 26:75.

After having denied Jesus three times, Peter thought about what he had done and wept bitterly. Therefore, from the time of the trial until the present moment, Peter was in a state of deep sorrow and unbearable guilt.

2. Why does the angel single out Peter as the one who is especially to be told about Jesus' resurrection?
 - a. What does this say about God's love for us?

Christ had often told them that on the third day he would rise again. They should have come expecting to have found him risen, and would have received the news of it with a joyful assurance, and not with all this terror and amazement.

3. If an explanation of what would happen to Jesus was not enough to convince the disciples of his resurrection then we cannot depend on explanations to bring people to faith in Jesus. They need an encounter. How can we help people to encounter Jesus?
 - a. How have you encountered/still encounter Jesus?

Read Mark 14:28

The young man's words to the women in Mark 16:7 are the fulfillment of that promise.

4. "There you will see him just as he told you". When Jesus says that he will do something, he will do it. Despite being tortured and enduring the bloody cross, Jesus still comes through on his word. How should this affect our faith in Jesus' words to us?

Additional Reading

Additional Scriptures on the resurrection.

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:16-18

Acts 3:15