

Hope for Failures

Mark 16:1-8

True closure is future oriented.

1. Grieving, these faithful women came to tend to the body of Jesus (v. 1).
 - a. Bookends of anointing
 - i. "She has done what she could..." in preparation for His death (Mark 14:8).
 - ii. They are doing what they can after His death (v. 1).
 - b. The women knew exactly what tomb to go to – they saw Him buried (Mark 15:47).
2. They were so set on the task ahead of them they did not have answers to all the details.
 - a. Who will roll away the stone (v. 3)?
3. They entered the open tomb (v. 5).
4. They were met with unexpected news.
 - a. A message of hope from the grave (vv.6-7)
 - b. Coming for closure they are lifted up from their circumstances and pointed to an end to the story they did not yet comprehend.

God is fully present and fully in control in the midst of the confusion.

1. God is fully in control.
 - a. Things happened exactly as they had been foretold.
 - i. Mark begins with an announcement of what God will do (Mark 1:2-8).
 - ii. Mark ends with an announcement of what God has done (v. 6).
 1. Jesus the Nazarene (an historical, real man, rooted in a place)
 2. Was crucified, died, and buried (they witnessed this)
 - b. The angel reveals the truth of the resurrection.
 - i. He showed them where Jesus had been laid in the tomb.
 1. He has risen.
 2. He is not here.
 3. You will see Him.
 - a. This is in fulfillment of what He already told them (Mark 14:28).
2. God is fully present.
 - a. God ordained the circumstances for these women to hear a message of hope.
 - i. The removal of the stone is a work of God - the divine passive.
 - ii. The removal of the obstacle allows them to come in contact with God's work.
 - b. In God's kindness He chooses to speak into the confusion.
 - i. The angel greets them sitting down (v. 5).
 - ii. The women are not greeted by silence in an empty tomb, having to figure things out for themselves.
 - iii. God speaks a message of hope in a place of judgment.
 - iv. The women did not understand.
 1. A reaction of fear and awe
 - a. The angel's first words "do not be amazed (alarmed)"
 2. A response of fleeing and silence (v. 8)

The resurrection means hope for failures.

1. God gently reminds us of restoration and hope.
 - a. The words of hope:
 - i. Jesus is going ahead of you.
 - ii. You will see Him!
 - b. Words of restoration to those who need it: Go and tell...
 - i. The disciples (Mark 14:27) – the sheep will scatter.
 - ii. And Peter – Peter was singled out – he was the chief offender (Mark 14:29-31).
 - iii. The women failed this task at first – they fled and were silent (v. 8).

2. The process is part of God's plan.
 - a. The women and the disciples had to wrestle with their failures.
 - b. They also had to come face to face with a Savior who did not condemn but restored them.
 - c. The process that God takes His people on is one of death to life, hopelessness to hope, brokenness to fullness, failure to restored son or daughter of God.
 - d. The death and resurrection of Jesus calls us not to be perfect, but to run to the One who was perfect on our behalf.