

April 8, 2018

ENCOUNTERING THE RISEN JESUS

This morning, and for the next couple of months (*at least thru Pentecost – 50 days*) we're going to be looking at some familiar biblical encounters with the Risen Jesus AND hearing a few testimonies from our own members about their present-day encounters with Him as well. You'll notice an announcement in the bulletin today inviting you to participate in telling how you are encountering the Risen Savior in your own life – *hearing from Him, being led by Him, experiencing His supernatural power & life, & resolutions to problems*. If you'd like to share about a contemporary experience with Jesus, just let me know!

This morning, we'll gain some important pointers from Mark's gospel about encountering the Risen Jesus in real life!

READ: Mark 16:1-11 Mary Encounters the Risen Jesus

(Notice the similarities and pattern of each encounter)

1-2) Hope Lost

- Hopeless, shattered, confused, misperceiving w/out faith
- The women go to anoint a dead body, not a risen Savior!
- Their love motivates duty; but doesn't promote relations
- Even work we attempt to do for God must be examined!

3-4) *Isn't this just like us: tackling problems before they exist?*

- Why do we do that when Jesus is with us & all we need?*

5-9) Hope Encountered

- Consider spiritual implications of your circumstances
- Ask Jesus to show you truth, ***not what appears to be!***
- Expect to meet Jesus where you are! That's why He rose

10-15, 20) Hope Proclaimed

- Mary proclaims her meeting with Jesus & His message
 - Her testimony is met with unbelief (their choice)*
- Jesus meets 2 on Road to Emmaus; they return/proclaim
 - We are not responsible for people's response!*
- Then Jesus meets the 11; and they believe & proclaim!

20) And they who had met the Risen Jesus proclaimed Him

But these first century disciples are not the only ones who "encounter" the Risen Jesus. Everyone who believes and is saved has in fact encountered Jesus! Not the way these disciples did; *we are the blessed as those who "believe w/out seeing!"*

In our hopelessness, when all hope is lost and we are at the end of ourselves, our solutions & our resources, we are still meant to encounter the Risen Savior – not seeing, but believing anyway; listening for His still small voice in our hearts guiding, leading, comforting, instructing, calming and bringing us peace – even in the midst of horrific circumstances! And once we do, we are to proclaim the hope of this encounter with Jesus to all!

(Donna's Testimony)

There is a pattern here – both in scripture and in life – born out by one testimony after another – Mary, Emmaus Road disciples, 11 apostles, and Donna just to name a few! **Hope Lost; Hope Encountered; Hope Proclaimed!** So, next time you find yourself without hope, remember that you are at just the right point to encounter Hope Himself! And when He changes your circumstances, your perspectives or you – be ready to proclaim to others the Hope you've encountered in the Risen Jesus!

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- 1) Are you willing to admit your Hope is lost?
- 2) Are you expecting to encounter Hope, the Risen Jesus?
- 3) Are you willing to proclaim the Hope you've received?

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Isaiah 25:8,9

8) *The LORD All-Powerful will destroy the power of death and wipe away all tears. No longer will his people be insulted everywhere. The LORD has spoken!* 9) *At that time, people will say, “The LORD has saved us! Let’s celebrate. We waited and hoped—now our God is here.”*

Isaiah prophesies about a God who is present, here, with us now! This God who swallowed up death, wiped away all tears, and removed the reproach of His people – is no longer a promise, but an early-stage reality. **He has come...and He is risen...and He will come again to consummate His kingdom & complete our salvation so that we see Him as He truly is.**

But until then...our God is here & He is enough! He wants to journey through this life with us. So as we live life – encountering joys, challenges, trials, & surprises, we are meant to encounter the Risen Jesus in all of them!

Sermon in a Sentence: Encountering the Risen Jesus

Mark 16:1-20 (NLT)

1) Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended (*after 6:00 pm Sat – now we’re into the third day*), Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus’ body. 2) Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. 3) On the way they were asking each

other, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” 4) But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

5) When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6) 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. 7) 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.” 8) The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

[Longer Ending of Mark]

9) After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons.

10) She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. 11) But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, they didn’t believe her. 12) Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. 13) They rushed back to tell the others, but no one believed them. 14) Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead 15) And then he told them, “**Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. 16) Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. 17) These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. 18) They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.**” 19) When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, he was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand. 20) And the disciples went everywhere and preached, and the Lord worked through them, confirming what they said by many miraculous signs.
