

**WHO MOVED THE STONE?
MARK 16:1-4 / 1-31-18 / WED**

I. FIRST, THIS QUESTION EXPRESSES UNBELIEF.

- A. Practically speaking their question is about getting into the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus.
- B. Spiritually speaking, though, it expressed their unbelief. How so?
 - 1. They expected to find the lifeless dead body of Jesus inside that tomb.
 - 2. In spite of the many times Jesus predicted his death and resurrection these women, along with Jesus' twelve disciples, never got it—Mark 8:31, 10:33-34 and 14:28.
- C. Unbelief will blind anyone from the evidence and truth of the resurrection.
- D. People today reject the truth of the resurrection or refuse to even consider it for the same reason—unbelief.

II. SECOND, THIS QUESTION EXPRESSES HOPELESSNESS.

- A. These women had no hope of moving the stone themselves.
 - 1. More importantly, they had no hope of finding Jesus alive.
 - 2. They were going there to anoint a dead body.
- B. Do you realize that without the resurrection we also are without hope?
 - 1. Paul understood connection between hope and the resurrection—1 Cor. 15:19.
 - 2. Paul went on to list three things that are futile if there is no resurrection.
 - a. Without the resurrection our faith is hopeless—15:17.

1 Corinthians 15:17
And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.....
 - b. Without the resurrection forgiveness isn't possible—15:17.

1 Corinthians 15:17
..... you are still in your sins.
 - c. Without the resurrection our family is gone forever—15:18.

1 Corinthians 15:18

Then those also who have fallen asleep (or died) in Christ are lost.

3. Paul, however, was convinced in the resurrection of Jesus and so should we be—15:20.

1 Corinthians 15:20

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.....

III. THIRD, THIS QUESTION EXPRESSES THE POWER OF GOD OVER DEATH.

- A. The question these ladies asked was answered when they arrived at the tomb to find the stone had been rolled away—16:4.
- B. How? Because all hope was restored.