
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 4/21/2019

Mark 16:1-8 – “The Historical and Radical Reality of the Resurrection” by Drew Hunter

Overview

The resurrection is central to Christianity. Although many seek to portray it as a myth, Mark takes care to demonstrate its historical reality. It was unexpected and shocking to those who first witnessed it, rather than something naively accepted by a superstitious culture. Mark provided several witnesses by name whom his original readers could have consulted, and the account does not accord with something manufactured as fiction. It calls for thoughtful personal response of a truly life-changing nature.

Quotations

“Nobody was expecting the resurrection. ... People then were no more inclined to believe in the resurrection than we are today.” Drew Hunter

“Jesus’s resurrection is not just a historical reality to agree with; it’s a personal reality to deal with.” Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) A typical modern rejection of the resurrection is the dismissal, “People don’t rise from the dead,” as though this were a recent insight. How does Mark’s account show that people in Jesus’s day shared this same incredulity but were overcome by hard evidence? Consider details like those in Mark 15:21 and 42-47 as well as those in 16:1-8.
- 2) How does Mark honor Jesus’s female followers, remarkable in his strongly patriarchal society, yet also show that they are human like we are? You might consider Mark 14:3-9, 15:40-41, and 15:46-47 in addition to Mark 16:1-8.
- 3) How does the angel’s singling out Peter in Mark 16:7 give all of us hope? See Mark 14:26-31, 32-42, and 66-72.
- 4) Mark records a summary of Jesus’s mission in Mark 10:45. The language of *ransom* requires the making of a payment. For what was Jesus paying? Be specific. How does the resurrection relate to the idea of ransom?
- 5) If Mark intended to end his Gospel at 16:8, what affect did he intend the ending to have on his readers? How should we respond? Consider how Mark 1:1 might affect your answer.