

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Glen Weber's Sermon on April 5, 2015
"What Does Easter Mean for You?"**

[In today's sermon, Senior Pastor Glen Weber recounts the story of Jesus' resurrection from Mark's Gospel and also shows the power of Jesus' resurrection in our lives today.]

Notes:

Introduction:

- Over the past two weeks, Ron Kelly, one of our more senior (spiritually) elders preached through the last seven days of Jesus' life before He died.
- He concluded with the Saturday after Jesus' death – while Jesus was lying in the tomb.
- As Ron mentioned, the Bible is almost silent about that day.

- To the Jews, it was a precious and important day of rest and worship.
- For Jesus, it was the time when He entered into death and the grave for us!

- The apostle Paul tells us the last enemy is death and that it will be overcome when all humanity is brought out of their graves – back to life!
- For Jesus to make that even possible, it was necessary for Him to enter into death and then overcome death through His resurrection.
- He not only dealt with sin for us, but He also dealt with our death!!

- So for two nights and a day, Jesus had been lying in that tomb – as dead as any of our relatives who are in their graves.
- But – as Ron concluded last week with that famous old sermon by Pastor S. M. Lockridge, "It's Friday, but Sunday's comin'" – death has happened, the grave has temporarily won, but Sunday's comin'!!

Sunday has come and Jesus has risen from the dead!

Mark 16:1, When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

- The women go to anoint Jesus even though he told His disciples at least seven times that he would die but then be resurrected on the third day.
- As was mentioned last week, it seems like the Mary who anointed Jesus' feet was the first to really get a grasp on the fact that Jesus was going to die – anointing Him for His death.
- However, even she did not expect Him to be resurrected!!
- The women are headed to the tomb to finish taking care of His body.

- How often are we doing things that are seeing Jesus through the "eyes of death" instead of the "eyes of life?"
- Many times we can't see or hear God because we are blinded with our own thoughts.

2) Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

- They arrive Sunday morning while it is still dark, but after sunrise.

3) and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

- The women were worried about who will move the stone for them.
- So often we worry about things that we don't need to worry about.
- Did they need to anoint Jesus' body? NO!!! What they were trying to do wasn't even necessary!
- Do we tend to focus on problems of life?
- What obstacles or problems do we worry about that don't even exist when the event occurs?

4) But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

- Why was the stone rolled away?
- It wasn't to let Jesus out of the tomb.
- It was done so that the women and then later Peter and John to see that Jesus was no longer there.

5) As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

- As they approach the tomb, the women are alarmed because they stone has been moved and there is an angel there.

6) “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. See the place where they laid him.

- The women were looking for the dead human from Nazareth!
- “Don't be alarmed.” Many, many times Jesus told his disciples, “Do not be afraid.”

6b) He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

- He is risen! He is not here! He is risen. He is risen, indeed!
- He isn't just the crucified Nazarene anymore. He is that and MORE – because now He is the resurrected and LIVING Nazarene – the Son of God!

7) But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

- They leave trembling and bewildered.
- They have just witnessed the **evidence** of the greatest miracle in history – and they still go away bewildered.

What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us?

- The apostle Paul wanted us to experience the power that raised Jesus from the dead.
- Paul wrote about this life changing experience in many of his letters to the churches.

Eph. 1:18, I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,

- God has called us to His glorious hope.

19) and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength, 20) he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,

- The great power that raised Jesus is the power working in us today.

21) far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- Jesus has overcome any and all powers that can confront us.

Phil. 3:10, I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

- Paul wants us to “know” which means in the Greek to move beyond mere intellectual comprehension.
- The Greek word for “like” is *symmorphizomenos*.
- The definition means “to conform to, take on the same form as.”
- This verb is in the passive tense which means it’s not something we do, but rather what happens to us.
- It’s Jesus living in us that transforms us.

11) and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- When we are baptized, we are raised with Jesus from the dead – in this life as well as in the future.

Col. 2:10, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

- Paul’s prayer is for the members in the church.
- Christ is filling us with his life now.
- How do we respond?

11) In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

- It's Christ who makes us new.
- He cuts away (circumcised by Christ) at our sinful nature.

12) having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- Because of His resurrection, Christ is alive and well – and living in us today.

Concluding Comments:

- So, God lifts us and inspires us through the same power that resurrected Jesus so that we can experience His resurrected life ...
 - in the life we now live...
 - and in the ultimate life when we are resurrected from the grave.

Communion:

- Jesus told His disciples that if they eat His flesh and drink His blood, they would have eternal life – now and forever!
- The bread symbolizes his broken body on the cross for us.
- The cup symbolizes his shed blood for us which has taken away our sins.

Closing Prayer