

## A MIRACLE WITH A MESSAGE

04/08/2007

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**Mark 16:1-14**

No doubt the greatest miracle that God has ever performed is the raising of Jesus from the dead. Some of us wonder if God still performs miracles today. You want to be sure that God can perform miracles because you are in need of one right now. Those who saw Jesus dying on a cross were hoping for a miracle. But when they saw Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus taking Jesus' body from the cross, wrapping it in linen, and placing it in the tomb, their hopes were faded. The women resolved to show one last act of love and devotion.

They probably spent the whole next day and night worrying and fretting over what they wanted to do. They waited until the next morning to go to the grave to anoint his body. They went to the tomb hopeless. They had no expectation of a miracle. When the women looked up they saw immediately that the stone had already been rolled away. They worried needlessly. We do the same. We worry about what God has already worked out. This is how you not only survive, but thrive. Those who look to the Lord are radiant.

They were looking for Jesus. The angel told them, "He's not here." He sent them to tell the disciples and Peter that he had risen, just as he had said. The disciples didn't believe the women. Here we have God performing one of the greatest miracles in the world and no one believed. Do you believe? What we see is a lack of faith and what Jesus called a stubborn refusal to believe, which can block your receiving a miracle. Lloyd Ogilvie said, "A miracle is the intervention of supernatural power which supersedes the laws of nature." Humanly speaking, there is no way to reverse death. "Those who have problems with miracles are those who have the difficulty of believing that there is a sovereign God," Adrian Rogers.

In Genesis 1, God spoke and billions of galaxies were suspended across the universe. Is death stronger than the giver of life? God isn't bound by nature. There really are no laws of nature; there are laws of God. The reason why some of us have a problem believing God can perform miracles is that we refuse to bring God into the discussion. Is anything too hard for God? When you believe him, nothing is impossible to you.

**They went looking for him when he told them he wouldn't be there.** Mark 9:9-10, Mark 10:34 Jesus gave them explicit instructions as to what was going to happen.

**They didn't take God at his word.** God's word is the basis for belief. They couldn't see what was going on inside the tomb. Preachers preach and teachers teach, the word is made available by all kinds of means, and people still don't believe. We have to take God at his word. When we don't, we miss the miracles. Does he speak and then not act? God always fulfills his word.

When the women went to the tomb they were surprised. The miracles of God confirm his word. The Greek word, *simeion*, means a miracle with a message. The resurrection proves that Jesus is the Christ. The resurrection proves that he has authority to give his life and raise it up again. Death tried to hold him. He held him the first day but then the grip started to slip. And by the third day, he walked out of that grave and brought all of us with him and because he lives, we can face

tomorrow. Because he lives all fear is gone. The resurrection comes with a message that life is stronger than death, and God is stronger than anything.

The question that each one of us must ask ourselves is, "Do you believe?" The greatest miracle is that He has saved us. If he can raise you out of your situation then he can raise your dead situation. We must believe that.

The word that the angel gave Mary, Salome, and Mary the mother of James, was to go tell... Find somebody and tell them about the day God changed your life.

Peace.

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