

SPEECHLESS

Mark 16:1-8

I. A SURPRISE BEGINNING

- A. *And they were saying to one another, "who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" (Mark 16:3)*
- B. Rock Removal.
 - 1. What blocks us from having Easter faith?
 - 2. *If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:14)*
- C. Reversing the Irreversible.
 - 1. Evil is in control – until Easter.
 - 2. Death is final – until Easter.

II. A SURPRISE ENDING

- A. Cut Short.
 - 1. The earliest manuscripts have Mark's gospel ending with verse 8.
 - 2. There are no resurrection appearances, and nothing happens after the women find the tomb empty.
- B. Added Later.
 - 1. Early Christians added verses 9-20 to fill in the gap.
 - 2. The earliest record of the resurrection is found in 1 Corinthians 15.

III. A SURPRISE DESTINATION

- A. *"But go, tell his disciple and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee."*
- B. Where did Jesus go after the resurrection?
 - 1. Did he ride triumphantly back into Jerusalem?
 - 2. Did he take a trip to the temple?
 - 3. He went home.
- C. Where does he meet us?
 - 1. He met them in the most ordinary places: at breakfast, in a locked room, on the beach at work.
 - 2. He meets us in ordinary places, like Halls or Dyersburg.

IV. A SURPRISE RESPONSE

- A. *And they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid. (Mark 16:8)*
- B. Easter evangelism back then.
- C. Easter evangelism today.
 - 1. Telemarketing Evangelism.
 - 2. New Paradigms:

<u>Old</u>	<u>New</u>
Confrontational	Relational
Goal: a decision	Goal: a disciple
Motive: guilt	Motive: value and love
 - 3. "If you have ten minutes to share the gospel with someone, spend the first nine asking questions and listening." (David Henderson)

Prayer Concerns: *Burney Biesel, Scott Cottrell, Melvin Dowling, Albert Fowlkes, Gordon Freeman, Mac Kerr, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Mildred Sentell, Joe Tidwell, Jr., Ray Billings, Kenneth Blackburn, Sarah Clark, Cledus Creel, Richard Cole, Jimmy Eubanks, Angela Fisher, Nancy Godsey, Jean Hansford, Fern Haslop, Dorothy Huffstutter, Kristi Jackson, Jeff Joyner, Ava Grace Keleher, Mary Lou Lepping, Van Lynch, Judy Malaquias, Catherine Mattheus, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, David Petrie, Patrick Ramage, Florine Rickeman, Mary Elizabeth Roberts, Tornado Victims ...*

Christian Sympathy is extended to: *Deborah Davison and family in the death of her aunt, Dorothy Garrard, who died Thursday, April 6.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, who on this day did conquer sin and death and rose from the grave, and who is alive for evermore, help us never to forget your risen presence with us now and forever.

Help us remember ...

That you are with us in every time of uncertainty
to guide and to direct;

That you are with us in every time of sorrow
to comfort and to console;

That you are with us in every time of temptation
to strengthen and to inspire;

That you are with us in every time of loneliness
to cheer and to befriend;

That you are with us even in death
to bring us through the waters
to the glory on the other side.

Help us to remember that there is nothing in time or in eternity which can separate us from you, so that in your presence we may meet life with courage and death without fear. This we ask for love's sake.

Hear us now as we pray the prayer you taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debtors, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 16:1-8

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

April 23	<i>Touch the Wounds</i>	John 20:19-31
April 30	<i>Seeing Is Believing</i>	Luke 24:36-48
May 7	<i>The Good Shepherd</i>	John 10:11-18
May 14	<i>A Life Giving Connection</i>	John 15:1-8

On the Radio (1450 AM):

April 23	<i>Our Joyful God</i>	John 15:1-11
April 30	<i>Hurry Sickness</i>	Luke 8:5-15
May 7	<i>Approval Addiction</i>	Matthew 6:1-18
May 14	<i>Singing in Jail</i>	Acts 16:16-34