

Daily Bible Study

“Divine Vindication”

Mark 16:1-8

March 24 – March 30, 2013

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –As we approach Easter Sunday and the celebration of our Lord’s resurrection we take for our text **Mark 16:1-8**. As we have been seeing from Mark’s gospel and will continue to see as we enter Holy Week, there was just so much that took place in our Lord’s crucifixion. Among other things, He accomplished and achieved victory for His people with His work on the cross. Oftentimes, there seems to be a strange neglect of the celebration of His resurrection which in many churches is only focused on during the Easter season. We will see this week that there is great reason and need to celebrate often the Lord Jesus’ resurrection from the dead which in fact was a **Divine Vindication** of the Son by the Father. Read our text **Mark 16:1-8**: *“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is 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 into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”*

Suggestion for Prayer: *God, teach me this week from Sacred Scripture to understand, see, and celebrate the vindicating resurrection of Your Son, my Lord, Jesus Christ.*

TUESDAY – **Mark 16:1-2**: *““Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.”* The Sabbath was past as it is now after 6 P.M. on Saturday. Shops are open again. We find three women mentioned, and they have been mentioned earlier (**Mark 15:40**), two of them mentioned standing observing our Lord’s death on the cross (**Mark 15:47**). They went to the market and purchased spices in order *that they might come and anoint* Jesus. We do know from **John 19:38-40** that Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus had already bound Jesus’ body with linen and about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes. But the dead body had not as yet been

anointed. Jesus had not yet been shown the respect, admiration, and devotion that was given to a departed loved one. The living body of Jesus had been anointed in Bethany (**Mark 14:3–9**) but not since he had died and these women were on their way to do just that. These women, like the disciples, should have paid more attention to the Lord’s repeated prediction that He would rise again on the third day. And although they did in fact show a lack of sufficient faith we must not miss their display of love and loyalty. They were at the cross when Jesus died, in Joseph’s garden when He was buried, and now *very early in the morning*, we find them again preparing to exercise care and concern for Jesus before and above themselves.

Suggestion for Prayer: *God, help me to be so consumed and concerned with Jesus as these women. May I not look first to my concerns and “needs” but to Yours and then to others.*

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 16:1-2**: *““Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.”* A subtle point yet a very important and practical one needs to be made concerning these two verses. Perhaps it may seem insignificant to some but in actuality it is huge in matters of why, how, and when we gather corporately to worship our risen King Jesus. Our text says, *Now when the Sabbath was past...* and again, *...very early in the morning, on the first day of the week*, giving us the time of these events very clearly and understandable. In the opening of our study I alluded to the strangeness that most Christian churches do not draw more attention to the resurrection of Jesus except for at Easter time. We gather to worship *on the first day of the week* rather than on the seventh precisely because of Jesus’ resurrection on Sunday morning. The Sabbath day of Bible times became The Lord’s Day or “Christian Sabbath” if you will from that moment on and Church history as well as the New Testament makes it clear (**Acts 20:7**, **1 Corinthians 16:1-2**, **Revelation 1:10**) that this was the time for believers to gather and worship their Lord, and worship Him in His Resurrected glory. This public setting of the corporate worship of God’s people with Jesus as the centerpiece is also seen from the very appearances of Jesus Himself on the day (first day of the week, Sunday) of His resurrection. Jesus appears to Mary and the women early in the morning (**Matthew 28:9-10**) and *they worshipped Him*. Then Jesus appears to the men on the road to Emmaus, teaches them or we could say “preaches them the gospel” finally arriving with them and other believers (**Luke 24:13-32**). Then that evening we see Jesus appearing to His disciples where we have another moment of teaching and worship (**John 20:19-21**). All of these are Sunday events. If we continue in the record from **John 20** we pick up the story in **verses 26-29** and we read that some *“...eight days later...”* (which is the next Sunday as John counts the days from the present day forward; For Example: 1-Sunday, 2-Monday, 3-Tuesday, 4-Wednesday, 5-Thursday, 6-Friday, 7-Saturday, 8-Sunday) Jesus again appears to the disciples this time with doubting Thomas. What makes this interesting is that we see the disciples gathered together on Sunday, The Lord’s Day, only one week after Jesus resurrection and Jesus comes

to them in that moment of corporate gathering to minister to them *peace* and *forgiveness of sins*. From then on we see the pattern established of the Sunday, Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath corporate worship of the people of God.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thanks for setting a day aside from creation onward for me to meditate, worship, & glorify You as creator & Savior. Help me be faithful to gather with my brothers & sisters in Jesus and worship by the hearing of the Word & use of the Sacraments.

THURSDAY – **Mark 16:3-4:** “*And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.*” The anxiety on the part of the women concerning the stone which closed the entrance to the tomb seems not to have occurred to them until they approached the tomb that early morning. This mention of alarm before they saw the stone had already been removed is found only in Mark's Gospel. The minds of these ladies are so taken up with their loving purpose that this obstacle does not occur to them until now. They now become worried about the huge stone in front of the tomb's entrance. They ask each other, “*Who will roll away the stone...for us?*” Mark, does a masterful job in writing here as he uses the future verb tense to intimate to the reader that something is to follow regarding this stone. Perhaps they are blaming themselves for not having thought of the problem of the stone before this. The women also seem to know nothing about the Roman guard that had been placed at the tomb either. *But suddenly they saw, when they looked up* that the heavy stone had already been rolled away. How was this done? Matthew, under the Divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit says, “*And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.*” (**Matthew 28:2-3**). Lenski commenting on this text makes the following observation, “Matthew tells us that an angel rolled the stone away and sat on it. It was not rolled aside in its groove in the regular way so as to be rolled back again to shut the entrance. No, it was hurled out of its groove by some tremendous power, thrown flat upon the ground in front of the tomb, thus making a seat for the angel who waited until the women drew near and then went inside the tomb. This stone was *not* again to be rolled in front of the entrance. It had been laid flat so that the tomb should stand wide open for all men to see that it was emptied of the body of Jesus, the bodiless wrappings lying undisturbed and flat just as they had been wrapped, mute but mighty evidence of the resurrection, **John 20:5–10.**”

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for assuring Your people of both who You are and Your mighty power. Strengthen my faith & point me to Your Word for this assurance. I thank You also for the many quiet ways in which You proclaim Your truth. Give me ears to hear.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 16:5-8:** “*And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to*

them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is 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 into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” None of the evangelists describe the resurrection itself for it had no witnesses, it was completely miraculous. We do know the women enter the opened tomb. Why did God have the stone removed? Not to enable Jesus to get out as we already mentioned two passages (**John 20:19, 26**) where Jesus walked through walls and doors to meet His disciples. Jesus in spirit left the tomb silently invisible to the eyes of men (**1 Peter 3:18**). His dead body was then at God's appointed time, suddenly quickened, filled with life, and passed out of its grave clothes (which lay there undisturbed-**Luke 24:12, John 20:5-7**) and out through the sealed and guarded tomb. Again I quote Lenski, “Then, when the tomb was empty, the angel came and opened the tomb to show that it was indeed empty. At this coming of the angel and the earthquake he caused the Roman guard fell prostrate and, recovering somewhat, fled. Those paintings which portray the glorious Savior coming out of the opened door of the tomb while the guard falls in dismay at the sight of him are not in accord with the facts of the case. Silently, invisibly, wondrously, gloriously the living body passed through the rock.” Regardless, beloved we do know that the tomb was opened as a testimony of victory and vindication (**Romans 1:3-4, Acts 17:31**). The opened tomb allowed the women and then also Peter and John, to enter the tomb. God had vindicated His Son and His victory was evidenced in the fact that He had conquered sin and death and all those who wish to come and see by faith the *place where they laid Him* may do so. As **Romans 10:7-9** proclaims, “...or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (*that is, to bring Christ up from the dead*). But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (*that is, the word of faith which we preach*): *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*” The angel comforts the women and reassures them of what Jesus had spoken clearly before, that the One who humbled Himself to death would rise again.. The tomb is empty. The Father who sent Jesus to the cross had accepted completely the atonement Jesus offered for his people. His righteous demands were satisfied and He declared to the whole world that our justification had been secured (**Romans 4:25**). The angel also passes these words of encouragement through these women to the doubting and failing disciples, even the denying disciple Peter. Although these women were overwhelmed with fear, wonder, amazement and so on Mark leads us to expect great things, a marvelous reunion in *Galilee*. From this wonderful passage we learn Jesus did rise victoriously from the grave and He would reveal Himself to be the thoughtful, kind, patient, loving, and consistent Lord as always. This beloved is Your Lord also, if in fact You are trusting Him by faith. Jesus is alive and by god's grace, in Christ, so are we.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I thank & praise You holy trinity for the wonderful & powerful good news of the gospel and the glorious news that Jesus lives, forever.