

ROLLING STONES, LATE ADOPTERS, AND MIRACULOUS RESULTS

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MARK 15:33-47

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Mark 16:1-20

- The death of Jesus on the Cross (Mark 15:33-47)
 - The 6th hour- This is 12 noon and it grew dark and stayed dark for three hours.
 - At 3pm Jesus cries out to God... Why have you forsaken me? (verse 34)
 - See Psalm 22:1-3 and Psalm 6:1-3
 - Some of the 'on lookers' thought that He was calling to Elijah to come and rescue Him.
 - They give Him some vinegar on a sponge to see if they can keep Him alive and to see if Elijah would show up. (verse 35-36)
 - Jesus cried out again and breathed His last and immediately the veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.
 - The soldier who stood right in front of Jesus declared... "Surely this man was the Son of God!"
 - The faithful ladies who followed Jesus and ministered to Him regularly were there until the end with Him.
- The burial of Jesus (verse 42-47)
 - Joseph of Arimathea "gathered up his courage and asked for the body of Jesus, clearly testifying that he was a believer in Jesus." Has that ever happened to you?
 - Joseph buys the linen grave cloth and carefully places the body in the tomb and make sure the tomb entrance was 'sealed' by a large stone.
 - Mary Magdalene and the other women of faith were paying special attention to what Joseph did with the body of Jesus.
- Resurrection Sunday Morning
 - The women came to bring burial spices and oil to anoint His body.

- They loved the Lord and were going to minister to Him but they were looking for a dead man!
- Early Sunday morning they were walking to the tomb with one big question... Who will roll the stone away so we can get to Jesus?
- Have you ever had the opportunity to be a 'stone roller' for someone?
- Did someone roll away a stone so you could find Jesus?
- Regardless of the size, magnitude or longevity of the obstacle in your life, He will work for you so you can get to Him!
- The 1st Easter Miracle... The stone was removed and the way to get to Jesus was open... but he wasn't there!
 - Mary and her friends found an amazing sight, there was an angel waiting for them.
 - The angel proclaims that Jesus who had been crucified had risen from the dead so go to Galilee and you will see Him there.
 - They were instructed to tell the disciples what the Angel declared and to tell them to head for Galilee too.
 - But, the ladies were stunned and astonished and out of fear they said nothing to no one!
 - Then Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and she believed and then she tells the disciples but they "Refused to believe it." So they don't believe Mary.
 - Then the two men who encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus came to the disciples (see Luke 24:13-35) and testified to them about the resurrection but they didn't believe them either.
 - The disciples are SO human! Not unlike you and me! They were late adopters! How about you?
- Jesus shows up (Mark 16:14) and He seriously challenges them for their hardness of heart, their lack of faith and their unbelief.
 - Then He does something amazing... He commissions them, empowers them and sends them out with the promise of miraculous results (verse 15-20)

- Those who had just fallen short of believing were now commissioned and sent forth to tell the story of resurrection life. "And He said to them, go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news, the gospel, to every creature of the whole human race." Mark 16:15 AMPC
- Jesus was so confident in His followers and so committed to their commission that He returns to Heaven and His throne.
- His plan to save the human race is entrusted to people like us... Amazing!
- They believe and do what He says and it works!
- "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs *and* miracles that closely accompanied [it]. Amen (so be it)." **Mark 16:20 AMPC**
 - "The Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the attesting signs and miracles that closely accompanied it. Amen... so be it!
 - So let it be Lord Jesus.