

Title: THE RESURRECTION IS...MARK 16:1-8.
(Chatham, NJ; 04/12/09, AM) [Ps – Devotional Format]

Theme: The resurrection is vindication, explanation, and transformation.

Purpose: To demonstrate that the Resurrection involves all three of these things, and to reinforce that it points us to a better, fuller, and richer life.

CORPORATE READING: PSALM 118:19-24.

I. The Resurrection Is Vindication.

- Christ's prediction that his suffering was a part of God's plan confused the disciples.
- Numerous times he tried to tell them, Mark 8:31-33; 9:30-32.
- Such treatment didn't fit with the notion of a Messianic king.
- The Parable of the Tenants suggests that a victory will be forthcoming after initial rejection.
- Remember Psalm 2:1-4. The leaders think they can thwart God's anointed.
- In Mark 14:27 Jesus reveals what appears to be another significant setback.
- After the crucifixion it seemed as if the rulers had succeeded.
- Yet his words come true, Mark 16:7, "Just as he told you."
- The empty tomb becomes the vindication: the stone has become the chief cornerstone.
- Because he lives, his message, his way of life, and our hope are all vindicated from the rubble of meaninglessness.
- We have hope because he lives.

SONG: Day of Resurrection [Verses 1 & 3] 297

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

II. The Resurrection Is Explanation.

- When someone expresses doubt about Christianity, ask them to explain its existence.
- Ask them, "Why did the Apostles die for their beliefs?"
- That the Resurrection truly, historically, and actually happened is the only logical explanation for the change in their lives.
- Luke 24 describes one of their early encounters with the resurrected Lord.
- The disciples on the road to Emmaus experienced a burning in their hearts, 32. They turned back to Jerusalem.
- Jesus appears before them in a locked room, John 20:19, and they are stunned.
- He eats with them. (Get a good vision of what they are experiencing.)
- Would the mission have made sense without this?
- This teaching of first importance (1 Cor. 15:3) explains the power and longevity of the message of the Gospel and the existence of the church.

SONG: Hark, the Gentle Voice of Jesus, 907

READING: Acts 10:34-43.

III. The Resurrection Is Transformation.

- Baptism corresponds to Christ's death and Resurrection, Romans 6:3-4.
- As God brought about a new life after death, so too we walk in a transformed lifestyle.
- But the transformation goes even further than moral rectitude.
- Consider the value of oranges (see article).
- What is then transformed is our whole system of attaching value. Things that the world values, when confronted with life and death issues, don't possess value anymore.
- The Resurrection does that for us.
- Just as the Apostles experienced transformation, we are transformed.
- When Christ tells us to lay up treasures in heaven (Mt. 6:20), it is because the born again life gives us a new set of things to love and cherish.
- Peter reflects the same change of values, 1 Peter 1:4.
- Paul urges us to set aside our earthly strivings in 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

Conclusion:

1. Christ's Resurrection vindicated his ministry.
2. It explains why the Apostles' lives were so changed.
3. It transforms us.
4. Live today and always with peace, joy, and hope!

SONG: Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today, 345