

Sermon Outline - Sun, March 31, 2024 – It Ain't Over
(Mark 16:1-8)

Overview – We are finally at Easter Sunday!!!!

Exegesis – Telling the story

- Women wake up early to attend to Jesus with the spices they prepared. They thought he was dead but they wanted to honor him.
- The Angels call them out - Didn't you listen. He said he was going to come back
- The Women – Early Adopters – They remember and believe and go to tell everyone
- Peter – The First Follower - Has to see it for himself and his faith is restored
- The Gossipy Doubters – 2 Disciples don't believe until Jesus breaks it down for them
- Thomas – I need to put my hands in the holes cause this all sounds crazy

Key Points –

1. All the characters were different but **Jesus met them where you are**
2. Jesus helped them to connect the dots. He wasn't abolishing the law he was fulfilling it – Folks had gotten so caught up in their religious traditions they had lost track of the deeper motivation to love God and their neighbor.
 - a. We don't worship justice – we worship the God of Love and justice is what love looks like in the public sphere.
3. It Ain't Over w/ His Ascension - He Calls them into the plan because the goal is the full redemption of humanity and we are still writing that story.

The power of this story is not that everything was fixed. The Empire was still in charge and the socio-economic situation of the time wasn't transformed in the way they had expected . The religious establishment had sold them out and lots of people had called for Jesus' death. All of these people are not addressed by his resurrection. I have to admit that I want Jesus to walk around vanquishing those folks. But that would miss the point.....

That day was a pivot point where God wasn't just the Savior of the people of Israel but Jesus called them to a world transforming movement Jesus gave them a mission and showed that God's love, forgiveness and transformation could not be crushed by any systems that humans create.. The Good News is not that Jesus finished it but that he got it started and he calls us to live into it! And what better time to live radically into love, hope and resurrecting power than the time we are in!!!!

Reflection Questions

1. Which of the characters in the story do you most identify with – the women, Peter, the disciples on the road, doubting Thomas? In what ways has Jesus broken through to you? Where do you need to open up to let him in more?
2. Do you feel like you see the bigger picture of what God is doing in the world? Especially in these dark times, how can you allow the bigger picture to give you hope?
3. Jesus' Resurrection is amazing and powerful but Jesus is very clear that the story keeps going with us. Over the last few weeks/months what has God revealed to you

about your role in the plan? What are you called to pursue – how can accept the challenge or keep pressing through?