

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM AUGUST 4, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Mark 16:7-8

But go, tell His disciples and Peter, “He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.” They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



The ending of Mark's gospel often raises more questions than it answers. In terms of Easter passages, it is the road less traveled. We want the details of the resurrection seen in the other gospels, to experience the emotion of Mary meeting her Lord or the satisfaction of the reunion of Jesus with the disciples. Was Mark being clumsy or just deeply unsatisfying with his ending? Mark's gospel has been incredible in its power and its subtlety, but does that mean there are no lessons to be learned from Mark's unique stopping place?

There is no narration in any of the gospels about the resurrection, only the aftermath. Whether it is the response of the religious leaders to the report of the Roman garrison about the body disappearing or Jesus meeting up with the disciples and the restoration of Peter, none of the gospels tell us what happened at the resurrection other than the tomb was empty. The prophets said death could not hold Him, Jesus promised that God would raise Him and the angels proclaimed that God has done exactly this. But for those at the tomb this Sunday morning, the only evidence they have is an empty grave with the command to go to Galilee to see Him. The question that must be answered is a question of faith: How can we find Him?

The angels do not tell the woman: "Surprise! He is here." Instead their message is go and tell. Tell Peter and the others He has gone on ahead of them to Galilee. Yet, Mark does not write of any reunion with the earthly form of Jesus, no tears of joy or hugs of comfort. We are only told of the fear of the women and their fleeing from the empty tomb. But people respond to the Lord in fear throughout the gospel of Mark. The disciples were afraid when Jesus calmed the storm. The people of Gerasenes feared Jesus power to cast out demons and restore a man to his right mind. Not to mention the eleven at the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. Humans have been deaf, dumb and afraid to know God's glory throughout the story.

How do we treat the empty tomb? Is it our Wailing Wall that we visit every year at Easter? Have we become like the women? — leaving the sanctuary in haste and afraid to speak to anyone about the resurrection evidence? Consider what Mark teaches us and consider how the words of the angels should cause us to move forward, not retreat in fear. All we have is the news that Jesus has been raised. If any want to see Jesus for themselves, they must go to where He leads. For the disciples, that was Galilee. If today we ask where is Jesus, Mark tells us the answer. Jesus is always ahead of us, leading us on to new lands. Jesus is to be found when we are obedient to His commands.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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| AUGUST 2013 | | | | | | |
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The Hymns We Sing

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Jesus Lives!

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http://www.hymntime.com/tch/html/j/i/i_j_lives.htm

Click on Links

I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Revelation 1:18



Christian F. Gellert
(1714-1769)



Henry John Gauntlett
(1805-1876)

Words: Christian F. Gellert, 1751, translated from German in *Sacred Hymns from the German*, 1841.

Music: Henry John Gauntlett 1805-1876

Jesus lives! no longer now
Can thy terrors, death, appall us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then, alone to Jesus living
Pure in heart may abide,
Glory to our Savior giving.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Naught from us His love shall sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! to Him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where He is gone,
Rest and reign with Him in heaven.
Alleluia!

SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

- Aug. 4 8:45 a.m. Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Mark 16: 1-20**
All's Well That Ends, Well?
10:30 a.m. Second Hour
- Aug. 9 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship**
- Aug. 11 8:45 a.m. Pastor Andrew Kikkert**
New Study: Weapons of Spiritual Warfare
Ephesians 6: 10-20 Why Christians Must Fight
10:30 a.m. Second Hour
- Aug. 16 7:00 p.m. Game Night**
- Aug. 18 8:45 a.m. Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Ephesians 6:14**
Spiritual Warfare: The Weapon of Truth
10:30 a.m. Second Hour
- Aug. 23 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship**
- Aug. 25 8:45 a.m. Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Ephesians 6:14**
Spiritual Warfare: The Weapon of Righteousness
10:30 a.m. Second Hour
- Aug. 30 No Friday Night Activities**
- Sept. 1 8:45 a.m. Pastor Andrew Kikkert – Ephesians 6:15**
Spiritual Warfare: The Weapon of the Gospel of Peace
10:30 a.m. Second Hour

The Cost of Discipleship –

Pakistan militants renew death threats against Christian lawyer

By STEFAN J. BOS, CHIEF INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT BosNewsLife

LAHORE, PAKISTAN (BosNewsLife 8-1-2013) — A prominent Christian rights lawyer who has been on the run in Pakistan amid death threats asked fellow believers Thursday, August 1, to pray for his family after armed Islamic militants discovered a hiding address.

Sardar Mushtag Gill told BosNewsLife that six men, some of them carrying guns, on Monday, July 29, visited a family home in the Pakistani city of Lahore where his younger brother opened the door. “They were members of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, the Islamic group that killed the governor of Pakistan’s Punjab province, Salman Taseer, and Christian federal minister Shahbaz Bhatti in 2011 because they criticized Pakistan’s blasphemy laws,” he said.

“They told my brother they want to meet me, but I am sure they really wanted to kill me. They made that clear in letters I received,” added Gill, who managed to escape. “The militants wrote that ‘those who support a blasphemer must die,’” he recalled.

Gill linked the latest threats to a Lahore trial court decision last week not to pursue a blasphemy case against his cousin Martha Bibi, 47, after she escaped with her family to Sri Lanka. “Under Pakistani law she will have to be in Pakistan for the trial. However if she returns, she may face arrest,” he cautioned.

Bibi was initially detained in January 2007 on what Gill views as trumped-up charges of making “derogatory remarks” about Prophet Mohammed in an argument with a Muslim woman. Though Gill managed to get her released on bail of 100,000 Pakistani Rupee (\$1,000) three months later, she remained concerned about her future.