



Table Talk

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 04, 2021

Mark 16:1-8

“...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Vs. 8



Fear does this, you know. Fear silences you. Fear muzzles you as you anticipate the consequences of speaking. These women—Mary, Mary, and Salome—received great and mighty news: “He is risen!” (vs. 6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ... God’s triumph over all the powers and principalities on earth and in heaven... Jesus’ vindication against the religious and secular powers that tried to silence him by shutting him up in a tomb... the resurrection was the most wonderful news the world would ever hear. The young man commissioned those women to be preachers of this good news. Yet... Yet, they went out in fear and were silent.

We are not told the kind of fear that took hold of them. But we most likely have experienced something akin to it. They, like most of us today, were not accustomed to a public voice or to speaking in public or to even speaking up in a setting greater than immediate family. The possible consequences to our self-esteem has shut us up in fear—a kind of throat-closing, tongue-stopping dread. Sometimes we learn of other consequences that inflict fear upon us—consequences imposed by those with coercive power over us. These are the sorts

of powers and principalities that Matthew enumerates in his gospel (Mt. 28:11-15,) who deliberately spread a false narrative accusing the disciples of stealing Jesus’ body. Any contradiction of that story would incur the wrath of the religious, the military, and the governmental powers. They would call the resurrection a lie and bring all their resources to bear in the task of shutting up anyone repeating the truth of Jesus’ resurrection. They would make those who preached the good news of Jesus’ resurrection afraid... very, very afraid... in order to silence them.

But they couldn’t silence them. Those apostles... first the ones sent out from the tomb... then the ones sent out by Jesus... those apostles, even though they were imprisoned and killed, refused to be silenced by fear. Perhaps they had heard and believed the many times the Lord had said to his people, “Do not be afraid!” (cf. vs 6). Because they spoke and would not let fear silence them, you, too, have heard this good news: “He is risen! Alleluia!”

Table Talk: Discuss why the use of fear to silence opposition is such a useful tactic for the powerful

Pray: : Heavenly Father, give me a voice to preach the good news and ears to hear it. Do not let fear silence me. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337



Table Talk

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 04, 2021

Mark 16:1-8

“...they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Vs. 8



Fear does this, you know. Fear silences you. Fear muzzles you as you anticipate the consequences of speaking. These women—Mary, Mary, and Salome—received great and mighty news: “He is risen!” (vs. 6). The resurrection of Jesus Christ... God’s triumph over all the powers and principalities on earth and in heaven... Jesus’ vindication against the religious and secular powers that tried to silence him by shutting him up in a tomb... the resurrection was the most wonderful news the world would ever hear. The young man commissioned those women to be preachers of this good news. Yet... Yet, they went out in fear and were silent.

We are not told the kind of fear that took hold of them. But we most likely have experienced something akin to it. They, like most of us today, were not accustomed to a public voice or to speaking in public or to even speaking up in a setting greater than immediate family. The possible consequences to our self-esteem has shut us up in fear—a kind of throat-closing, tongue-stopping dread. Sometimes we learn of other consequences that inflict fear upon us—consequences imposed by those with coercive power over us. These are the sorts

of powers and principalities that Matthew enumerates in his gospel (Mt. 28:11-15,) who deliberately spread a false narrative accusing the disciples of stealing Jesus’ body. Any contradiction of that story would incur the wrath of the religious, the military, and the governmental powers. They would call the resurrection a lie and bring all their resources to bear in the task of shutting up anyone repeating the truth of Jesus’ resurrection. They would make those who preached the good news of Jesus’ resurrection afraid... very, very afraid... in order to silence them.

But they couldn’t silence them. Those apostles... first the ones sent out from the tomb... then the ones sent out by Jesus... those apostles, even though they were imprisoned and killed, refused to be silenced by fear. Perhaps they had heard and believed the many times the Lord had said to his people, “Do not be afraid!” (cf. vs 6). Because they spoke and would not let fear silence them, you, too, have heard this good news: “He is risen! Alleluia!”

Table Talk: Discuss why the use of fear to silence opposition is such a useful tactic for the powerful

Pray: : Heavenly Father, give me a voice to preach the good news and ears to hear it. Do not let fear silence me. Amen

Written by Rev. Timothy J. Swenson

Dean of Chapel for the Institute of Lutheran Theology

www.ilt.edu • PO Box 833 • Brookings, SD • (605)692-9337





Table Talk

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 04, 2021

Mark 16:1-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

3 And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.

6 And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



Table Talk

The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 04, 2021

Mark 16:1-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

16 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

3 And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large.

5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed.

6 And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

