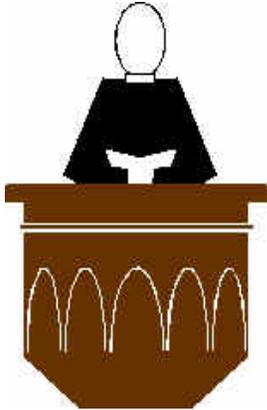


## SERMON SUMMARY

<b>Date:</b> April 16, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
<b>Preacher:</b> Rev. Donald Lawrence	<b>Reference:</b> St. Mark 16: 1-20
<b>Topic:</b> The Way of the Cross – Leads to Self-Denial	

This portion of scripture of course is Mark's account of the resurrection. The opening verse finds three women obtaining spices with the intent of anointing Jesus' body. This was meant to be an act of love and devotion but it also suggests that these women were not expecting Jesus to be resurrected.

*Verses 1-8* can possibly be summarized as the women being 'shocked at His (Jesus)' presence.'



**1-3:** These verses speak of '*what the women pondered.*' Having the intention of wanting to anoint Jesus' body, they were most likely thinking of how they were going to move the stone that covered the entrance to the tomb.

**4-5:** These speak of '*what had them perplexed.*' Not only were they shocked at the fact that the stone was rolled away, but having entered the tomb, they were even more perplexed by the angel that awaited them there.

**6-7:** These speak of '*what they were to pass on.*' The women were given the directive by the angel to tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was risen.

**8:** This verse speaks of '*what they kept private.*' Instead of following the directive of the angel to spread the message of Jesus' resurrection, the women said nothing to anyone because of fear.

What is important to note in these verses though is that Jesus could not be confined. Jesus defied confinement by the way in which he defied death.

Similarly, the devil wants to confine us from experiencing the fullness of Christ, but the power of Christ in us allows us to be able to experience the true joys of life. This demands that we accept God-sent fulfillment and to realize that God's call is not to the grave, but rather to life.

*Verses 9-13* can best be summarized as 'sterile at His appearance.'

**9a-9b:** It is important to note that in this verse that Jesus gave the *distinction* to a woman of being the first to see Him after his resurrection. This speaks volumes of the fact that Jesus saw women as being important. The woman to whom he appeared was Mary Magdalene who he had previously *delivered* from demon-possession.

**10-11:** These verses speak of *disbelief* evidenced by the disciples' refusal to believe that Jesus was alive.

**12-13:** Jesus *demonstrated* the fact the He was alive by appearing to two men, but the disciples still dismissed the report of the two men and what they witnessed.

Jesus' resurrection defies condemnation and calls us to accept God-sent facts. Jesus' resurrection was indeed a fact, which is a reminder to us that God's call is not to guessing.

*Verse 14* finds Jesus 'scolding for an unbelieving attitude.' The disciples up to this point had simply refused to believe that He was very much alive and as a result, He rebuked them for:

- 14a: a lack of trust in His words.
- 14b: a lack of trust in the words and testimony of others who had seen Jesus.

Jesus' resurrection defies closed-mindedness and calls us to accept God-sent future. The fact is that God's call is not to go back.

*Verses 15-20* capulate our mission and is a reminder that we are 'sent to attest to His power.' We are given the *command* to go and preach, with verse 16 stating condemnation as the *consequence* for disbelief. Verses 17-18 is a powerful encouragement of *conquest*, that we are equipped with power to carry out that which God has called us to do. Jesus' resurrection defies captivity and calls us to accept God-sent freedom.

When we deny ourselves in Christ, we defy the devil and we are able to defeat every plan of the devil. We must all learn to accept self-denial as the path to spiritual power.