

**Victory Over Sin and Death  
April 4 (Easter Sunday), 2010**

Genesis 3:14-19

Mark 16:1-8

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**Synopsis:**

“Terror and amazement had seized them.” I hope we hear the good news today with terror and amazement. If we don’t, we have missed the message.

If the gospel writers tell us the truth, that Jesus has been raised bodily from the tomb, then the tomb isn’t the victor. God is the victor, who raised Jesus signaling the transformation of the creation and us in it.

I.

**A Punch Line with No Story**

Mark 16:6 He has been raised

Ever heard a punch line and missed the joke, the story?

E.g. “To get to the other side” (Chicken story)

Say “knock, knock” ( I reply, “Who’s there?”)

-Barb and my favorite movie: *Return to Me*

-Vet in a bar, telling a joke to a few women

-You come in at the punch line “We don’t have no brown bananas”

\*Everyone laughs, but what’s the joke, the story?

Mark’s resurrection is a punch line:

READ Mark 16:6

“Don’t be alarmed, you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He is not here. Look there is the place they laid him.”

What’s the joke, the story?

I want us to get the resurrection because we now know the story that precedes it. Once we do, we will be filled with terror and amazement.

II.

**The Tomb Story**

Mark 16:8 Very early on the first day of the week . . . they went to the tomb

What are some possible stories?

Here’s a story that is becoming popular

What does a tomb symbolize?

- death
- only sure things in life are death and ? Taxes
- Mom's ashes in creek in Smoky Mtn National Park,
- startled me

\*Tomb defines our lives?  
 -psychologist Rollo May, once a minister, but quit  
 "Only truthful moment was the funeral!"

Notice Mark's account:

- Mark 16:2 They went *to the tomb*
- Mark 16:5 They *entered the tomb*
- Mark 16:8 They fled *from the tomb*

\*Mark's account (Peter's preaching) is structured through three prepositions:

Greek is very clear

- |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <i>epi to meneion</i>  | upon the tomb |
| <i>eis to meneion</i>  | into the tomb |
| <i>apo tou meneiou</i> | from the tomb |

The tomb is the focus: What do you make of the tomb?

- tomb the truthful moment?
- tomb the end?
- hope and change ends at the tomb = Death and taxes! --dust in the creek

\*Is the tomb a symbol for your life?

- hope ends in the grave
- depart from loved ones
- bodies break down

READ Gen 3:19

"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, and to dust you shall return."

END OF STORY

Secular story

Is it true?

Many believe it, even some Christians =

say the resurrection story is about renewal of faith,  
 not a renewed body

Paul says if this is true, we are of all people most to be pitied. So eat and drink,  
 for tomorrow we die.

There is no joke in this story, because it is fantasy.

The tomb is the end. Joke over.

### III.

#### **The Immortality Story**

“We’re gonna live forever, that’s what Jesus said”

Another popular story

Song: Young Life meeting we used to sing

We’re immortal, our souls live on after we die

-recent funeral heard a pastor say, “Bible teaches that we are immortal”

-Startled me!

-Story is this: When God raised Jesus, he pointed to the principle that humans are immortal; we live forever

-When we die, our souls live on

\*Is this the story for which the resurrection is the punch line?

Here’s another version of the same story

-when we die, our souls go to heaven to live with God

-where is heaven?

-what are we going to do with our time? Harps and clouds?

-sounds boring

-life forever also sounds terrible with the same issues,

Notice Mark’s account

-Doesn’t say “Here is his body, but his soul has gone to heaven”

-no body, no Jesus in the tomb

Apostles Creed (Early baptismal creed)

“resurrection of the *body*”

\*This story, as common as it is, doesn’t fit the punch line

-no *body* there

-no *soul* gone to heaven

-very Greek but not very biblical

### IV.

#### **The Jewish Story**

Gen 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers

Here’s the story I recommend that makes sense of the punch line

Elements of the Story: Bible teaches this (Walk Thru the Bible)

1. Good creation: And God said, "It is good."
2. Creation gone bad by our choices: Gen 3 = exile
3. God will renew creation, fix things:  
    Gen 12 All families of the earth will be blessed  
    Mal 4 prophets end with Great Day of LORD
4. This happens at the end of time, when God raises the dead bodily (not souls) to judgment and the Rule of God/Kingdom finally comes—the old age to the new age.

\*This is the Jewish story:

- Jesus, disciples, Pharisees, and most Jews
- this is the story that makes sense of the punch line

Why were the women startled?

- they expected a general resurrection of bodies
- they came to the tomb
- \*one person resurrected
- this startled them
- this is the joke, the punch line

What if this is true?

- transformation has begun ahead of the end
- new life is available now before the end
- your work now is not in vain (Paul in 1Cor 15)
- the crucified Jesus is the way God transforms creation
- your aches, pains, troubles, worries are real but not end
- creation groans: pollution, climate change real but not end

\*The transformation of all things has begun in Jesus

- I believe this is the true story for the punch line
- Eyewitnesses saw it: Women first (unlikely), Peter/disciples
- They proclaimed it
- We now live between the beginning of renewal and the end
- Your life now makes sense, has meaning, is not in vain
- Come to Jesus now and experience this
- Trust Jesus now and begin to live this story