

WHEN IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE

Mark 16:1-8

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Life is not easy and it throws a lot of things at us that are very confusing and often just don't make any sense. Family problems, broken relationships, sickness, accidents, crime, job loss, countless things fall upon innocent, undeserving people and it just doesn't make any sense why such things happen. When the women went to the tomb of Jesus to finish His burial preparation, they found the tomb empty, Jesus was gone! That didn't make any sense. What had happened? Then an angel told them what had taken place, God had stepped in.

I. GOD DOES THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN ANYONE ELSE DOES

1. Jesus was not accepted in the way He wanted to be.
 - The religious authorities had their own ideas of how and what the Messiah was to be and do.
 - Even Jesus' disciples had their own ideas and they were different from what Jesus was doing.
 - The followers of Jesus weren't sure exactly why they were following Him.
 - Then there was Judas who was so disappointed in Jesus that he betrayed Him.
 - Jesus wasn't doing what everybody thought He should be doing.
2. Jesus had died on a cross and was now gone.
 - The disciples, in fear, hid behind bolted doors and shuttered windows.
 - The women went early that Sunday morning to finish the burial preparation.
 - Everyone thought that they had been right after all, Jesus was just an ordinary person.
 - The women were met at the tomb by an angel and were told that Jesus had risen and to go tell the others.
 - They told the disciples and grief was turned into fear and wonder. Was Jesus really alive? Then they remembered that He had told them that He would rise on the third day.
3. All through history, including today's time, people have never understood how God worked and He once said, "*...MY ways are not like your ways, My thoughts are not like your thoughts...*"

II. THINGS BEGIN TO MAKE MORE SENSE WHEN ONE ASKS "WHO"

1. God's Word doesn't deal with the "how" of things as much as with the "WHO."
 - The creation account gives some information "how" things were made, but it stresses WHO created everything and WHO started the human race.
 - When the angel visited Mary and told her that she had been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the stress was not upon "how" it would happen, but WHO had chosen her and WHO would bring the wonder to pass.
 - The gospel message about Jesus is about WHOSE Son He is and WHO Jesus is to mankind.
2. God's Word does not go into detail about the resurrection of Jesus.
 - No human being was there when it happened.
 - There is no description how Jesus came out of the wrappings or how the head napkin was folded and placed where it was found.
 - After it was all done and only then did somebody see the empty tomb.

- WHO had risen is what matters.
- Only after Jesus had appeared to His followers after His resurrection did it all begin to make sense. He had told them, it happened, THEN they understood.

3. Life will begin to be more bearable when one focuses on WHO is really directing things.

III. LIFE IS MORE LIVEABLE WHEN ONE ACCEPTS GOD'S GRACE

1. Tragic things happen everyday somewhere in the world and people die.
 - Floods
 - Storms
 - Earthquakes
 - Tornados
 - Fires
 - Wars
2. The same God who created all things does not always cause everything that happens but the same God who created all things is always present, at work, bringing comfort, hope, peace and restoration
3. Faith, accepting God's grace, takes the tragedy, the pain, the sorrow the questions out of tragic events in life.
 - God brought happiness and celebration out of the tomb Jesus was buried in.
 - God's grace sent Jesus here in the first place.
 - God's grace restores people to Him and gives believers in Jesus eternal life.
 - God's grace has prepared a place for believers in His Son to live throughout all eternity.
 - God's grace has rolled the stones away from the tombs of life that some live in and helps make sense of it all.

CONCLUSION:

1. Very little in life makes much sense. Bad things happen for no reason to undeserving people.
2. Life seems to be automatic, every day, every year already worked out and we just "show up."
3. Whenever a person can grasp that God is HERE, not somewhere far off, and that God cares, and that God can help, and that God offers His grace that will restore fellowship with Him and give eternal life to be lived in Heaven, all through His Son, Jesus Christ, THEN things begin to make sense.
4. Easter doesn't make any sense until one understands WHO was behind it all the time.
 - The same applies to life. Life doesn't make much sense until we realize WHO is behind it.
5. God knows each of us and has plans for each of us and wants each of us to be His Child. Are you?