## MARK: The Questions of Easter 3.23.08

*1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and 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.*
*Mark 16:1-8 ESV*

**Primary Point: To provide the exclamation point for all of the events that have led up to confirming the fact that Jesus is God!**

*"Sabbath past"* About 6:00PM on Saturday night.
*"Mary Magdalene* A female follower of Jesus (significant) with a checkered past.
*"brought spices…anoint him"* They didn't embalm then or like flowers at a grave today.

### P: Jesus can intervene in our lives no matter what we have done.

*"Who will roll away the stone…?"* There would have been a large stone to seal the tomb.

### P: Even people who walk and talk with Jesus still have questions.

Why didn't they believe? Better question is : **Why Don't We Believe?**

Answer: We sinners, but simply knowing this only illuminates the problem.
The Gospel illuminates the problem *and* the solution.

Possible Strategies for Battling Unbelief:

1. Simply trying harder (which can lead to):
   a. Self-righteousness (if you are successful).
   b. Limited change (if you are mildly successful).
   c. Failure and despair (if you try and fail).
2. Following the example from a desperate father in Mark 9:14-32.
   a. "I believe! Help my unbelief!" (A place of Gospel Humility.)

*What's your current strategy for battling unbelief? What is the next step you can take?*

Practical Steps:

1. Take our book and let us buy you coffee and talk spirituality.
2. Listen to the Spirit as He illuminates the "questions behind your questions" and apply the Gospel to move forward in faith and wholeness.
   a. Read, meditate on certain passages that highlight the Greatness and Faithfulness of God in the Bible—eg. The Exodus.
   b. Share your need for greater faith with your Community Group.
   c. Simply cry out to God and see Him move in your life!

*"a young man…"* Luke records 2 men. Matthew tells us he was an angel. O.
*"…disciples and Peter…"* Most believe this points to the fact God has given up on Pe

### P: Jesus doesn't give up on us when we blow it.

Meditate and Apply a Key (but often overlooked) doctrine:
Double Imputation—all of our sin was counted on Christ's account, all of His righteousness was counted on our account.

*"just as he told you"* Jesus' resurrection was completely in line with His prophe
*"they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid"* In essence, they were scared speechless

### P: Sometimes fear keeps us from telling the good news about Jesus to

*What do you do with your fear of talking about Jesus?*

## How Am I Answering the Questions of Easter?

**Bible Bites for Teaching Your Children at Home:**

1. Easter is really about Jesus and not the Easter Bunny and toys ; )
2. Jesus (and Mommy and Daddy) still love you when you disobey like Peter
3. Jesus wants you to tell others about Him.
4. We can trust Jesus because He came back to life.

Visit www.crossinglouisville.com for more helpful resources, including study guides on Mar

For more on the resurrection, visit http://www.everystudent.com/sg/features/faith.html

*Works Consulted : Expositor's Bible Commentary, NIV Application Commentary, Life Application Bible, MacArt Study Bible, Jesus: God's Servant by Massimo Lorenzini*