

“[RE]FRAME - Jesus in our Picture”

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Graphics: frames, pictures, tomb, resurrection

Big Truth: The story of Jesus' final week on Earth has multiple levels of understanding and meaning. What the events and actions seem to be on the surface are not always what they appear. In our walk with Jesus in the church, it's easy to lose sight of the bigger picture while reading or hearing about the events of Jesus' life. This series will help us see the bigger picture through the scenes that lead to the cross and empty tomb on Easter.

Focus phrase: Jesus' resurrection reframes our lives with Him at the center.

1. Introduction

- A. Hi! If you're just joining us, I'm Pastor Steve!
- B. It's been so good to look back at some of the amazing Easter worship experiences we've had together over the past few years. It makes me really hungry to be together again for worship and all that God continues to call us to do together for our mission.
- C. If you're joining us for the first time today, or maybe you've joined us over the last couple weeks, what you've just experienced is more typical of our worship at Panama UMC. Once we can come back together in person, you are warmly invited to join us in person or online each week.
- D. But, right now, as we're all aware, things are just different.
- E. Things are bit confusing. Things are a little discouraging and everything seems like it's changed. We feel separated from those we love. We may even be experiencing some fear and sadness because of the state of our world.
- F. Usually, on Easter morning, we come together to loudly proclaim, “He is Risen! To which everyone replies, “He is Risen Indeed” like we did this morning together virtually!
- G. But things just don't feel like they should during THIS Holy Week.
- H. But, listen, I have a plan for us, this morning. I have a HOPE for us this morning!
- I. See, the people that were around Jesus during the last week of His life, I suspect, were feeling many of the things WE are feeling this morning and over that last few weeks.
- J. Think about that for a moment: Jesus had been teaching and healing and doing really great things. They were learning and loving and forgiving. They were amazed at Jesus. They were loving Him and getting used to His presence. Life was GOOD...mostly!

- K. A little while before this final week, Jesus began to talk about His death. He began to say that He wasn't going to be around much longer.
 - L. And then it happened. Judas betrayed Jesus. He was arrested. The disciples all fled and denied knowing Him. They beat Him and mocked Him. And then, on that Friday, they crucified Jesus on a wooden cross in the heat of the day way out there in the desert.
 - M. Right then, life changed. Radically changed. Jesus wasn't in the picture anymore.
 - N. What they THOUGHT was going to be life for tomorrow and next week and next month, had changed in every way.
 - O. You see where I'm going with this, I'm sure. Not to over-spiritualized our current crisis, but life has changed and we're a little confused and discouraged.
 - P. What we THOUGHT was going to be - things like your Senior year, or wedding plans, or job security, or church life, or even your trip to the grocery store - is now NOT what we THOUGHT.
 - Q. The disciples had been looking at the picture in which they saw themselves, and KNEW that it had changed. Jesus wasn't there now.
 - R. We are looking at the picture of our lives right now and know that it's changed.
 - S. The good thing is that we can see it. The bad thing is that we don't know what to do about it, just like the disciples and the women around Jesus didn't quite know what to do about it.
 - T. But Jesus knew what He needed to do about it with the disciples...and Jesus KNOWS what to do about it for US! And THAT is the HOPE we have...and it has EVERYTHING TO DO WITH JESUS' resurrection from the dead.
 - U. If you're taking notes, write this down: **Jesus' resurrection reframes our lives with Him at the center.**
 - V. We've called this Easter message *Jesus in Your Picture*. Let's pray and then see how that happened!
 - W. **PRAY!**
 - X. Turn with me in your bibles to Mark chapter 16, starting in verse 1...
- ## 2. Scripture
- A. **READ verses 16:1-8**
 - B. It was the third day. Jesus died on Friday...and the women made their way to the tomb on Sunday.

- C. Let me show us what that looked like. And I don't know about you, but I'm kinda burned out on technology. So, I'm going back to the good old flannel board!
 - D. (flannel board) Until Friday, Jesus was in the picture with the disciples and the women. After Friday, Jesus was NOT in their picture, except in their memories. (remove Jesus)
 - E. Jesus wasn't even in their picture once they got to the tomb...saw that the stone has been rolled away, SOMEHOW...when they saw an angel... when they looked into the tomb and saw that Jesus was gone.
 - F. Jesus wasn't in their picture when they were afraid and confused by the whole thing.
- G. Or at least they THOUGHT He wasn't in the picture.**
- H. The reality was that **Jesus was with them the whole time**. The problem was, the picture that the women were looking at was the same old picture they were hoping was true...that Jesus was alive somewhere, hiding, or stolen or something.
 - I. They just couldn't see Him...didn't know what happened.
 - J. Mark tells us the women were alarmed...they were scared and confused and concerned.
 - K. (add angel) Then there's the angel. The angel's report that they were looking for Jesus was true.
 - L. The angel's report that Jesus wasn't there was also true.
 - M. But what's with this whole, "He has been raised..." thing?
 - N. That was just too much for them to take in at that moment. It didn't fit into their picture frame.
 - O. So, the women went away - Mark says they FLED the TOMB. I get the sense that they couldn't run away fast enough...and said NOTHING to ANYONE because they were afraid.
 - P. Now, we know that eventually they DID tell the disciples, right? We know that the women and the disciples eventually all saw the risen Jesus.
 - Q. In the verse that comes after where we stopped, which scholars think was added later to the gospel of Mark, it says, "And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation."

- R. We know that happened because you and I are reading this scripture and talking about Jesus and these women today. The historical evidence of the resurrection is rock solid and it's sitting on your couch! It's US, church!
- S. (add Jesus to the frame and disciples) We know that Jesus REFRAMED the disciples' entire life AFTER the resurrection, to include a new reality with Jesus back in the picture...only THIS time, the picture had a RISEN JESUS and a mission for them all.
- T. And not only was Jesus IN the picture, but Jesus was front and center in the picture. He was the focus of their lives from that moment on. They couldn't stop talking about Him. Couldn't stop inviting people to listen to the truth about His life and death and resurrection.
- U. And once the Holy Spirit came blazing onto the scene in Acts chapter 2, the whole church was ignited. The POWER of the Holy Spirit of Jesus came upon the church to preach the Good News about Jesus.
- V. The whole WORLD got REFRAMED in one single moment...when Jesus walked out of His own grave under His own power!

3. Application

- A. This morning...this EASTER morning...when the entire world seems upside down, instead of sitting in church and enjoying this glorious Easter morning together, we're all sitting our homes worshiping online. On this Easter morning, as you stop and take a hard look at your life right now, I have a simple question: **is Jesus in your frame?**
- B. (grab a frame) When we take an old picture and put it in a new frame, we see things in the picture that we didn't see before. We see colors and scenes and people that we didn't notice before. It isn't that the picture changes. It's that our view of the picture changes because it's been reframed.
- C. Jesus doesn't just show up in the picture of our lives one day after somehow being absent. Here's some truth: He's always BEEN there. We just sometimes don't look for or notice Him...or we're looking for someone OTHER than the risen Jesus, like the women that morning.
- D. Yet, because JESUS does the REFRAMING, we see Him in a new way, just like the disciples did on the first Easter morning!
- E. **Jesus wants to be in your life-frame.** And not a photobomb in the back of your picture throwing up bunny ears. Jesus wants to be the one in the center that everyone else gathers around...like the CEO of the company or the captain of the team. Jesus is the one holding the trophy and the big foam finger. Jesus is the one with the banner that says, "We won!" Church, Jesus WON!

- F. See, because Jesus' resurrection was the disciples' resurrection. Jesus' resurrection was the women's resurrection.
- G. And, praise GOD, Jesus resurrection is YOUR resurrection! Jesus' new life after death is YOUR new life after death.
- H. And when Jesus stays in the center of your frame, then things can't ever be the same as they have been. Everything in the lives of the women who went to the tomb, and the disciples who eventually met the risen Jesus, was RADICALLY CHANGED and would never be the same again.
- I. Resurrection isn't about raising your tired old body from the dead to continue on in the same way you were going. Resurrection isn't about going back to way things were. Jesus didn't come back from the dead in order to put on His tired old shirt and say, "Ta-da! Just kidding!"
- J. Resurrection is about NEW life...changed life...focused life...REFRAMED life. Alive and passionate in faith...in worship, community, openness and obedience to God, in service and sharing.
- K. Resurrection is about taking your current circumstances and becoming all that God has always intended and planned for your life.
- L. Our incredible HOPE as followers of Jesus is that when we die, we will be raised to new life with God for the rest of eternity. The mystery of that is beyond us, but by FAITH, we grab onto that HOPE.
- M. I honestly don't know how you and I would get through ONE DAY in this world, especially right now, without the grain of faith that proclaims to our hearts: "Jesus came alive after he died...and so will I! Whatever happens in THIS life is important, but it's not the ultimate end. I'm going to be raised to new life, with a new body, in the presence of Jesus!"
- N. And you can start living that out, with Jesus in your frame, today!
- O. Looking forward to the resurrection when Jesus returns gives you hope, but what does it look like to reframe your life right now, resurrected with Jesus in the center of the picture, where He wants to be?
- P. See, because the REFRAMED life doesn't have to wait until Jesus comes back, or COVID-19 is gone, or when you can go back to work, or the next milestone on the horizon comes and goes.
- Q. The REFRAMED life with Jesus at the center is raised to new life EVERY MOMENT and EVERY DAY, CHURCH!
- R. "He has been raised...He is not here!"
- S. He has been raised, church. He's not where He was. He is where YOU are right now! And wants to STAY there!

T. Jesus' resurrection reframes our lives with Him at the center.

4. Conclusion

- A. I know this Easter is not what you envisioned...it certainly is not what the worship team or I was hoping.
- B. Yet, none of that matters. What matters is that Jesus is STILL alive, risen from the dead, and walking right into the frame of your life.
- C. Nothing we are experiencing right now has the final say because JESUS has the final say. Not even death has the final say in the picture of our lives, because JESUS has the final say.
- D. And Jesus' final say is that HE IS ALIVE...and He's offering that life to you again today.
- E. Live every day with Jesus in your picture...REFRAMED with Jesus front and center.
- F. That's the Easter promise...the Easter hope...
- G. Happy Easter!
- H. Let's pray... (close worship with a song and I'll be back for a benediction)