

Trusting God – Mark 16. 1-8 – The Resurrection

Intro I love Easter Sunday, some of my favourite childhood memories are of singing the sunrise in on the Lancashire Moors as a family, the sun rising as songs of life and hope and victory over death are sung. Easter Day is a glorious Day

Story The Easter story is an extraordinary story, a man coming back to life? Really? Sounds amazing? – but can we trust it? Because if it's true, then it changes everything.....

1 *He is risen.* For two thousand years people have sought to deny its true, but generation after generation as we will in our generation, will point them to the accounts in the Bible of Jesus death on Good Friday and the account of his glorious resurrection on that Easter Sunday. We can have confidence in the accounts, they stand up to scrutiny, many of the best minds and academics attest to this truth. They point to the empty tomb with no body, the eyewitness of the first women at this tomb and the evidence over the next 40 days of Jesus' appearances and the witness of the church for 2000 years - Jesus really did conquer death. It is a true and trustworthy account.

The Christian writer CS Lewis is famed for saying "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

2 We can also trust the resurrection because it makes sense of what Jesus came to do. Jesus as God's dearly beloved, one and only son came to give his life as a ransom for us. A perfect man sacrificing himself to death for us, to usher in God's kingdom. *The Angel said at the tomb to Jesus' followers don't be alarmed, but they were afraid, trembling and bewildered.* We need A saviour, a deliverer, a healer, a forgiver of sins, a conqueror of death.....Jesus the long promised Messiah came to free us from all that binds and tangle us.....from our fears of health, of financial worries, of being alone, of tomorrow - all our sins and ultimately death itself. All of us want freedom from the darkness of this world, from the spiral of despair of injustice and powerlessness against the evil, we can't just get getting angrier and angrier but Jesus is the only person to conquer death, He breaks the spiralthe Resurrection offers us that concrete hope, concrete evidence that its true.....we can trust the Saviour of the world

3 *The Women came to the tomb and discover something glorious and wonderful that only a glorious God could do.* The resurrection shows us the wonder of eternal life. It's what all of us desire and were created for.....I meet so many people who have placed their trusts in so many places.....in their own dreams, in their wives, or other relationships, in music and art, in sport, in leisure.....ultimately to reach a point when they say, is that what life is really all about (this thing has failed me!)..... Life can't really all just be about me.

There must be more. There is. In the resurrection God is at work pointing us and leading us into resurrection life with love, joy peace, acceptance, kindnessan ocean of eternal grace

Conclusion Easter Sunday is a Sunday to celebrate and give thanks, to respond to the events of the Resurrection. To put our trust in God who has done this all for us. There is an answer to human existence, there is real hope, there is an answer beyond the darkness and struggle of this world, there is someone and somewhere to put our trust, in Jesus Christ. People have asked me do you really believe this story? do you really believe Jesus rose from the dead? My response is "I not only believe it, I'm counting on it"

Prayer Jesus Christ I put my trust in you. Forgive my sins, wash me clean and make me new. Thank you for the hope I find in you and for helping me to see the love of God. I wish to live as your disciple. Help me to follow you. Use me to do your will and your work in this world – to restore your garden. And when this life is over, may I be with you forever. **Amen**