

Evotional – July 21st 2013. Mark 16:1-8

In the final verses of Mark's gospel we read the story of what happened early on Easter Sunday morning and the discovery of the empty tomb. Three women come to the tomb at first light to anoint Jesus 's body with spices and are shocked to find that the tomb is empty, the huge stone entrance has been rolled away and an angel is there to meet them. He tells the women ' You are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has risen. Go back to Galilee'. The angel instructs them to meet Jesus there. They are 'trembling and bewildered' and flee in fear. Mark's gospel ends at this point (we have almost certainly lost the last section which might have added more details and stories after this).

However Jesus did make a spectacular resurrection appearance in Galilee. He appeared to over 500 followers at the same time and also to James and Peter and (on another occasion) to Paul himself. Paul describes these amazing events in 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 – an account written within 20 years of the appearance itself and probably 15 years before Mark's account. He comments that many are still alive who can testify to these events.

Questions:

- Would your reaction have been different from the three women who ran away from the empty tomb in fear?
- Would you have been convinced of the resurrection by Jesus appearing as he did in Galilee (1 Corinthians 15)?
- In his sermon, Rick mentioned that the resurrection is the central point of the Christian faith. Do you agree?
- What does the reality of the resurrection mean to you in practice? How does it change your perspective on life?
- What has been your own closest personal experience of the living Christ?
- If you were to 'take Jesus home with you' what areas of your life and lifestyle might he wish to challenge and change?