

TRUST

Mark 16: 1-7

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 38th Day of Lent

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. **2** Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

When I read this story, there is one simple word that I hear over and over in my mind. Trust. This is something that we have been encouraged to have all throughout our faith journey. “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and he will lead your path straight.” When Mary Magdalene, Mary, and Salome embarked on their journey to anoint Christ’s body, the scripture explains that they saw, “a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side...” How would *you* react if you were one of the individuals in this scenario? The young man goes on to say, “**6** ‘Don’t be alarmed... You are looking for Jesus.’” Would you believe him?

Too often in this modern age we find people alienating others because they are different in some fashion. When I say being different, that includes race, religion, sex, sexuality, socioeconomic status, or educational level. Many do this in an effort to stay aligned with the social constructs of modern society. Others alienate in an effort to boost their own ego. Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball delivered a message to the West Virginia Annual Conference of 2016 that I will never forget. She shared that the Bible was not God’s final instruction guide for the modern Christian. He continues to speak to us today. Do you think that everyone accepted Christ with open arms when he first came to Earth? We know from studying history that this was obviously not the case. People saw him as a man who came to end hate, bigotry, and corruption. These people did not *trust* that Jesus was the son of God. They did not *trust* that his words were sent from God. As Christians, we struggle at times to realize that God speaks to us every day. You see God daily. You see him, in the grin of a small infant, the warm hug of a parent, and the love a child shows their parents. Let that speak to you.

In the end, my message to you is simple. Do not think that just because the way something went was not ideal, that it was not part of God’s plan for you. Just because it did not go how it has always gone, doesn’t mean that it’s not a result of divine intervention. God’s word never stops evolving. Neither should you.

Prayer: Gracious and merciful God, We come to you in an attitude of open hearts, open minds, and open ears. We confess that we have not listened to your word. We promise to trust your constantly evolving word and recognize that you are always surrounding us with your loving arms.

In Christ’s name, Amen

Max McGinnis, Huntington, YSF Chair
maxmcginnis2018@gmail.com