

GOD STILL MOVES STONES

By Randell Drake

TEXT: Mark 16:1-6

INTRODUCTION: Most of us have heard the Easter story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Today, let's look at the story personally, for ourselves, because no matter what is happening in your life, remember, God still moves stones.

I. "IT WAS STILL DARK"

- A. It's early, before dawn, on Sunday morning; sky is dark: John 20:1
- B. It's been dark since Friday: dark with Judas' betrayal, dark with Peter's denial, dark with Pilate's cowardice, dark with Jesus' anguish, dark with Satan's glee
- C. Only ember of light is a small band of women, standing near the cross
- D. There to call His name, to be final voices before He dies, to prepare His body for burial, to clean blood from His beard, to close his eyes, to touch His face
- E. It's dark for those last to leave Calvary and the first to arrive at the tomb

II. THE CALL OF DISCIPLESHIP

- A. Remember, the women don't know this is the first Easter morning
- B. They don't know the tomb is empty, the grave has been vacated
- C. Why are they coming to the tomb? Duty. Devotion. Discipleship.
- D. There to anoint the body, to place warm oil on a cold corpse
- E. Once, they had dreams; now just their service to their Lord – it is dark
- F. What if they had decided to let someone else do this task, had stayed home?
- G. "Let somebody else do the dirty work." Too often, Nobody does it

III. GOD STILL MOVES STONES

- A. The women wonder: Who will move the stone away for us?
- B. Why did the angel move the stone? For Jesus to get out? NO!
- C. Was Death Conqueror/Hell Destroyer/Grace Giver too weak to move stone?
- D. NO! The stone was not moved for Jesus to get OUT but for us to get IN!
- E. The stone was moved for us – the women started grinning – joy returned
- F. Darkness was gone; the morning sun was up; the Son of Man is risen

IV. THE EASTER LESSON FOR US ALL

- A. 3 Words: "DON'T GIVE UP!" Is your road long? Don't Give Up!
- B. Is your day dark? Don't Give Up.
- C. Is your night black? Don't Give Up!
- D. God is watching; He may be telling an angel to move a stone for you today
- E. The check's in the mail; the apology is in the making; the job is opening up
- F. Don't Quit on God – He has never quit on you!
- G. No sin is too great for His forgiveness – God Still Moves Stones!
- H. No past is too bad for His destiny to prevail – God Still Moves Stones!
- I. Let God Move Your Stone of Sin, Pain, Regret, Despair Today!

CONCLUSION: Today, if you are in the dark, on a long road, feeling despair – God still sends His angels; God Still Moves Stones! Just For YOU!