

Mark 16, Matthew 27

Sunday 4/20/2025

I've seen it all and seen what is good and what is bad. I'm very protective of the men and missionaries that I bring into this church because I want them to be everything that this church is and stands for. I think the philosophy across the board is very important. I want to tell you that Chris and his family are two of the finest. That's one of the finest families I've ever met, and I love them to death. They're definitely us. He is one of us. He believes the Book. I'm just so honored to have him here today.

My one granddaughter didn't know I wasn't preaching today. She said, "Grandpa, you're not preaching?" I said, "No." Chris says, "This is the way my kids are." She says, "Is he any good?" I said, "We'll find out." I guarantee you, but I'm just telling you, they are trained to think about the things of the Word of God. So, hey, I'm so glad you're here, brother. I'll tell you, this is only the beginning. He's coming back with his family. Mooey, I hope you come to camp this year if you can work it out because he said he was going someplace and you didn't want to go and be there. So you're welcome to come with us and with the kids, and we'll put you to work. It's good to have you. But I love your brother, and I'm so happy for you. Come on up here and lay on out what God has put on your hearts, and God bless you, man.

You will take your Bibles. The Baptist Church is what we do. Take your Bibles and find the book of Mark chapter 15. And then when you find Mark 15, take the other hand and find Matthew. Did I say Mark 15? I might have. Let me look. Mark 16 and Matthew 27. Mark 16 and Matthew 27.

It is an honor and a privilege to be here, not just in a generic term, but I mean, right here in this very spot. It is something that's more than nostalgic. Whenever I was a young man, I was a drunk, an alcoholic. Somebody gave me Dr. Ruckman's tapes on the book of Revelation. As a 16-year-old kid, I would drive around drinking and driving, listening to these tapes. I've still got the original set of those tapes, and there are beer stains where I spilled. But over time, God would begin to do a work in my life, and I got to the place where I really didn't need that anymore and found something better.

While I was listening to that, I was trying to talk about Dr. Ruckman. That guy was playing 3D chess when everybody else was trying to figure out how to play checkers. I remember I told my mother, I said, "I wish that somebody would explain it in such a way that it just kind of clicked a little bit better for me." I was getting everything I could get. I was young, and I didn't know much. I remember turning to my mother, and I hit pause on the cassette player. I said, "Mom, I've got to know, what is an advent?" Dr. Ruckman, all the second. I'm like, "What is an advent?" My mom scratched her head. She says, "I don't know, but I think you want to get the 1611 one if you find one." We didn't know. We didn't know. You don't know what you don't know.

My wife and I are missionaries to the underground church in Southeast Asia. We want to just say thank you for the meals, the accommodation, and letting us be a part of your church family. We want to thank you for the camp you let us send our kids to. Do you realize how many camps I've been a part of, been around? It's way into the double digits. When my kids, this one and the one that's up there playing and destroying your upstairs somewhere, when that kid shows up and

people walk up and say, "Daniel, we're good." We have never had that ever. That is a wonderful thing. That's a testament to who you all are. You're going to make a difference for the cause of Christ. So we're just thankful.

Brother Bob, somebody gave me a set of cassette tapes from the 1980s. I have taken notes on those cassette tapes. We call that discipleship, and I've preached that on almost every continent other than Antarctica. I just love that stuff. Nobody weaves church history and Bible like this guy. It is a surreal moment to actually talk to him. Because I've been listening to this guy on a cassette tape since 1991. The cassette tape, you can ask the cassette tape a lot of questions. It never talks back. Now, whenever I talk to him, he talks back. That's the craziest thing I ever thought of. My wife says, "Well, what do you think about that?" I was getting ready to place a phone call. She says, "It's kind of nice. You can talk to Bob Alexander." That's it. She patted me on the head. She says, "Oh, your childhood hero is talking to you." I looked at her and I said, "My goodness." I said, "I am a 50-year-old King James dispensational Bible-believing Baptist. I don't have daddy issues." So I make the phone call, and I get off the phone. She said, "What did he say to you?" He said, "I love you, man." And I just choked up, and I'm just right then I was 16 years old again. Maybe I do have daddy issues. I don't know.

I also want to thank you for the books. You guys have given us so many books. What we do with those is we incorporate all that into our discipleship. There are hungry scarecrows in Southeast Asia and China and all of that want that stuff translated into Mandarin, into Cantonese, into Thai, to Lao, into Vietnamese. They are hungry for a thimble of what you all get every week. So thank you for your goodness, and we appreciate it.

I. The Black Swan Event

What I want to preach to you about today is what we call historically a black swan event. If you Google the term black swan, it's a term historians use for an event that happens, usually kind of bad or negative, but it changes the world. Let me give you a few examples. If you just Googled, don't do it now, but if you just Googled black swan events, you might hear about how the Spanish Armada went up the English Channel. Spain was going to invade England. It was going to change the world. But God sent a massive storm, and the Spanish Armada sunk in the English Channel. As a result of that, England became the maritime power. You all now from the colonies, you all speak English. It changed the world. That's called a black swan event.

When Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to that wall, he challenged anybody in Germany to open debate over those ninety-five reasons he wasn't going to be a Catholic. Germany broke away from Catholicism, and that's considered a black swan event. Nobody saw it coming. When the stock market crashed in 1929, it's a small one. The Spanish flu, COVID-19 are small ones. 9/11 would be considered a black swan event. Nobody saw it happening, but when it happened, it changed the world.

The Bible is full of black swan events. Whenever you think about the nation of Israel, my goodness, when Moses walks out there, and they're pinned in, and Pharaoh's cavalry units are charging in on them, and Moses opens up the Red Sea, and they go across on dry ground, that

was a black swan event. When David walked out into the Valley of Elah, saw that Philistine giant, and put that sling over his head and took out that giant, it propelled the nation of Israel into military victory. It put David at the forefront of the knowledge and thought in Israel. It's a black swan event. Whenever Israel was surrounded by the Assyrian Empire, and Hezekiah goes up and lays out all those letters before the Lord, and the angel of the Lord comes in that night and kills 185,000 Assyrian infantry in one night, it's a black swan event.

But ladies and gentlemen, the greatest black swan event to this moment in the history of mankind was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was. When we get to the Great Tribulation, there are a whole bunch more, and they're all bunched together. In the Great Tribulation, a meteor hits planet Earth. Extinction-level event. That's a black swan. Whenever the fallen angels of Revelation 12 come down, and the bad ones from the bottomless pit come up in Revelation 9, and for all practical purposes, it feels like an alien invasion, that also is a black swan event. The greatest one that will be of all time is when Jesus Christ comes back to this Earth. He takes his foot and he steps down on the Mount of Olives. That thing splits in two. He walks back into that eastern gate of Jerusalem and sets down as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. But to this day, 2025, the greatest black swan event of all time was easily the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So what I'm going to do, I'm going to preach to you along here, but I want to just identify, I want you to have an understanding of what that event was like. What was it like on the ground? What was it like at the time? Then I want to take the second point to talk about the ramifications, how that changed everything.

II. The Resurrection Account

If you got your Bibles, look there at Mark chapter 16 and keep your place in Matthew 27. Look at Mark chapter 16 and look at verse number one.

Mark 16:1-8

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

They're running.

Mark 16:9-14

9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Now, we'll see some more information. Look at Matthew 27, and let's pick it up in verse number 51. Now, we're going to go back three days and let's pick it up in verse 50.

Matthew 27:50-53

50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

So you can go back to Mark 16. I just wanted people sometimes will say, "Pastor, I wonder what that first Easter morning was like." What was it like? It was probably more like Halloween than it was Easter. It was somewhere between Beetlejuice and The Walking Dead. It was somewhere along the lines. There was some crazy stuff happening that morning. Can you imagine? What would it have been like when Jesus rose from the dead and a whole bunch of other people rose from the dead? We'll talk about that as we think about just what it was like.

III. The Context of the Resurrection

It was a time of prophecy. How many now be careful who raises their hand. We'll see how old you are. How many remember Y2K? We all thought all the computers were going to melt down. We're going to go back to the Stone Ages. I had my MREs ready. The milkman came. I shot him anyway. He won't fool me. That's my MRE rations. We all thought about life differently because this big event was coming up. It was the year 2000.

For a Jew, there was a massive prophecy, still today considered the greatest prophecy in the entire Old Testament. There was a prophecy that if you counted down 490 years from the going forth of the commandment by Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem, in 490 years, Messiah would be on his throne reigning as the anointed king of Israel. So right from that time, they started counting down. Now, there was more to the prophecy. The big number was 483. So you're counting down. You get to 483. That's when Messiah was supposed to present himself. When Jesus Christ rode that donkey on Palm Sunday into that eastern gate, that was year 483 to the dot. He rides into that eastern gate on year 483. Every little kid that grew up said, "Well, how long will it be until the Messiah comes?" Nobody had to guess. "Well, I hope it's in my life." They knew when it would be. It would be in year 483. So Jesus is born in year 450, and the countdown is on, and we're looking for a Messiah to show up. That doesn't mean that he's going to rule and reign. It just meant in 483, he's going to present himself.

The Jewish thought was there would be this ongoing war for seven years. Finally, he would kick the snot out of the bad guy and set up an earthly Jewish kingdom that would be ruled and reigned by Jews. That's what they thought. By the way, a lot of that's true. But the problem is there was a little gap in there called the church age. So everybody is setting along. As you get closer and closer to that 483, there's only one guy that is raising the dead. There's only one guy that's walking on water. There's only one guy that's feeding people in the wilderness. There's only one guy that heals leprosy. There's only one guy that can do all of these things. My goodness, you talk about a preacher, a guy. Nobody read the room better than Jesus Christ. Nobody preached with authority like Jesus Christ. Here he is on Palm Sunday. They come in, and they're saying he's the King of the Jews. He's the Son of David. They're laying their palm branches down. Picture of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is connected with the second advent of Jews. It was a big deal. Everybody, you remember how on edge everybody was? Y2K, and it was the millennial madness. That's how it was times 100 for the Jewish people.

- A Time of Political Turmoil
- A Time of Flash Mobs
- A Time of Personal Sorrows
- A Time of Religious Confusion
- A Time of Military Occupation
- A Time of Spookiness

IV. The Transformative Power of the Resurrection

I think of these poor girls on the way to the sepulchre. They have no idea. They understand the political things and all the different things. But what a difference this day made. What a change it made. It changed the way that we view the world, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here you have the Romans dug in. You have all the political problems. You have all the different things going on. People are so, and then that stone rolls back. It says in one place that one of the angels set upon it. Can you imagine the puddle that was underneath a Roman soldier after he had seen that? One of those dudes could take out 185,000 of them with just blinking. The Bible says about Jesus Christ, the Bible says over the book of Exodus, he's a man of war. Now, I know he took on the form of the lowly Galilean. What do you think he looked like to a Roman soldier when he walked out of that tomb? "Down, boy, boom." You know what happened whenever John saw the risen Jesus? On his face. You know what happened when Daniel saw that angel of the Lord? On his face. You think that some Roman soldier's not going to sit there as motionless as they can? What an event.

- It Changes Our View of the World
- It Changes Our Understanding of the Bible
- It Shows the Deity of Jesus Christ
- It Tells Us What the Next Life Will Be Like
- It Gives Us a Perspective on This Life

V. The Resurrection's Impact on Discouraged People

This resurrection made a difference to people that were discouraged. Think of these girls. They're on their way. I don't know if they knew that Jesus' body had already been wrapped by Joseph of Arimathea the other night. I don't know all that. But for whatever reason, these girls, this group of girls, they're in verse one or two. Bob, these are the gutsiest girls I can think of. They must have went to Old Paths Baptist Church. These girls are on their way to that tomb. It's dark. It's spooky. How spooky was it? We don't know. And they're going to have to make their way through a Roman cohort. You think they're excited about that?

People sit around and say, I mean, I know what would happen if God called some girl to go do something crazy, amazing for God. And she had to go through a Roman cohort to do that. Somebody would step in there and they would say, "Oh, my goodness, young lady, that's so terrible. Do you think of all the bad things that could happen to you?" That's what a liberal would do. A liberal specializes in, Bob, they come up with the worst-case scenario that probably never happened and try to run the whole show off of that. Remember the Sadducees when they're talking to Jesus, they come up to Jesus and they said, "Oh, well, I know you believe the Bible literally. But I'll say it. It says in the law that if somebody dies, their brother has to take their wife and raise up seed. So there's this guy. He got married and he died, and his brother took his wife and he died. And the next month there were seven in the resurrection. His wife says she beat right as a liberal." That's what they do. That never has happened. I mean, does she have leukemia

too? I mean, does she have one leg short in there? She had to limp to guide and go ahead, come up the worst-case scenario for you not to do something for God. These girls could have come up with a thousand worst-case scenarios. They just went on and did something for God anyway.

They had discouragement. These girls had lost the greatest person that anybody could ever have known. I love my dad, and he died in 2017. I feel like in a weird way, we're closer than we've ever been because he knew the Lord, and someday we're going to be together. But respectfully, Dad, wouldn't Jesus Christ, one, three weeks with Jesus Christ, wouldn't that have been better? I've been closer to him than even my own dad. Can't you see how awesome Jesus was? These girls, they lost something when they lost Jesus, and they were worried about a stone that they couldn't be rolled away by them. They were worried about these Roman legions and cohorts in the way. How are they going to get through all that?

They were pretty discouraged with the men in their life. Now, ladies, don't raise your hands. But has anybody in here ever been discouraged with the men in your life? You think about this. What are the men in their lives going to let them walk to the tomb of Jesus Christ unescorted through a Roman legion? Yesterday, my wife and I, after the Easter egg hunt, we went to Costco, and Costco was busy. It was really, really busy. We parked in there, and my wife went and got something stupid like an eyeliner or I don't know what it was. We got there and hunted it down. Me and Daniel, we were looking at the blow-up trampolines or something. We walk in there, and this line stretched a mile long. I said, "Dear, is what you got in your hand worth this line?" And I said, "Honey, just what you have to have." She says, "My eyeliner, and I have to have it." She says, "If you don't want to be here." It's a trap, guys. Pay attention. "You can just go out in the car." Now, Daniel fell for the trap. "Yeah, let's go out in the car. Yeah. Give me your phone. I'm going to play Minecraft." He's going to sit there, mash my phone with those little sticky little fingers. And I said, "Daniel, we're going to stay right here with Mom." And he's like, he just felt generally ripped off. "Dad, we can go. Mom said it was okay." I said, "Daniel, why? Because there's a crowded place here. There's a long line. People are crabby, and I want someone to walk up to my 115-pound wife. Say something stupid." I'm going to step right here. Because I love her. I mean, I just fairly, I mean a lot, quite a bit. And I stayed in line at Costco with her.

Can you imagine the situation that these group of girls are going to make their way to this place, and it's okay with the men in their life? Your dad might be 78 years old, 82 years old. He's going to walk with his daughter. He's not going to let her go alone. Well, what's he going to do? Probably nothing, but at least he's going to be there. Come on, guys. Where's their brothers? Where's their uncles? Where's their husbands? I just tell you, these girls were discouraged with the men in their life.

They were discouraged with the future. They thought Jesus was the future. And now we know what the future is. And the truth was known. There's just a little bit discouraged with the Lord. Here we were serving God and going out and doing things. These girls, the Bible says in the book of John, they worked behind the scenes, they ministered to Jesus of their substance. I think it says over in John. These girls have been, we all know how hard this church is work. We guys set up there, and you girls are back there doing all the work. We understand that. Getting to the ministry of Jesus Christ was that much different. I just point out to all this, these girls still

stepped out in faith. And I'm sure glad they did. Why? Maybe they stepped out because they had great faith. I don't know. Maybe they paid more attention to Jesus talking about the resurrection than the boys did. I don't know. Maybe they stepped out. He said, "Well, somebody's got to do it." It's out of duty. Maybe they just feared God. Said, "We're going to do it because we love God." I don't know why they stepped out. But bless God, I'm glad they did. So are they.

You may be sitting here this morning with that mentality of Saturday. You know, there was the mentality of the people had on Saturday. It was terrible. It was bad. It was gray and bleak and lonely and no assurance. Then Sunday, Jesus had rose from the dead. And the world was on fire for God. These disciples, think of how the world changed for these girls. They thought they had lost Jesus, but they got him back forever. They thought the stone wasn't going to be rolled away, and come to find out it wasn't even an issue. The men in their life were transformed from guys that ran and hid to men that had violent death standing up for Jesus Christ and on mission fields far and wide. These men changed the world. They turned the world upside down. The future has been revealed. The Lord has been faithful. And these Roman soldiers are laying on the ground face, trying not to make eye contact. I'm just here to tell you, it changed everything for these discouraged people.

VI. The Resurrection's Impact on Hurting People

I also think of the hurting people like verse number seven. He says, "But go your way and tell his disciples." I love this, "and Peter." Because, you know, Peter didn't look like much of a disciple. The last thing we saw Peter was him cussing out a little 16-year-old girl the night Jesus was crucified or tried. I don't know in your life when you're saying, "Pastor, I'm just damaged goods. Pastor, I've messed up. Pastor, God couldn't possibly use me." Here's what I know to be true. I know to be true is that we all mess up. You may have great finances, but you have terrible relationships. You may have great relationships, but you just can't manage your money. You're just constantly always broke. Maybe you've messed up with your kids. Maybe you've messed up in your marriage. Maybe you've messed up with your health. Maybe your testimony, whatever it is. I'll tell you what you are. You are a dumpster fire. You are a slow-motion train wreck. And you know why that is? Because there's only one hero in this story. And he rose from the dead. You're not Superman. You're not even the best of us. But God just loves using seconds, rejects, and curves. That's what he loves.

"But, Pastor, you don't know what I do." I know how Jesus died. He died strung out on that cross. They pierced his hands because you went and did a bunch of stupid stuff. You had no business doing. They pierced his feet because you went a bunch of stupid places. You had no business going. They pierced his head with the crown of thorns because you got to think in a bunch of dumb stuff. You had no business thinking. They pierced his side right by his heart because you fell in love with a bunch of stupid stuff. You had no business falling in love with. You're who he uses. You say, "Well, I don't think he could use me." I don't think even once. The truth is, is sometimes we don't want anything to do with him. We love our habits and our friends and our music and our sin.

VII. The Resurrection's Impact on the Uninformed

In closing, I just look at this, and I see in reference here to these two guys on the Emmaus Road. There are some people that truly want to follow God, but nobody has explained the Bible to them. Jesus walks up to these two disciples, hides, veils his own deity and identity. "So what are you boys talking about?" "Well, are you just a stranger in Jerusalem? You don't know what we're talking about. There was this guy, Jesus of Nazareth, he did great things, all those different things. We thought he was the one. We thought he was great. We thought he was awesome. And then he died." And Jesus started opening the Scriptures to them. "Oh, you fools, slow to understand and believe all the prophets have said." And the Bible says later on, they looked at each other. "Did not our heart burn within us as he opened the Scriptures to us?"

Now, what would you think of those two boys after hitting a Bible study lesson from Jesus? How would you think of those boys if they thought, "Well, that was interesting, really cool. I ought to make a YouTube video about it," and just went on with their lives? No, it radically changed. Whenever I grew up, kids, my pastor was a cassette tape. It was a cassette tape. That's all I had. He didn't talk back. I couldn't tell him about this. Pastor saying, "If you have a question about the Bible, he'll be back in there in the office or in the bookstore after church." This dude will walk up to you and he'll put his arm around and say, "I love you, man."

Let me just tell you. There are people in China that have not even a thimbleful of what you got. They are laying their lives on the altar for the cause of Christ. And you think the judgment seat of Christ will be good to you when you set in Old Paths Baptist Church and was indifferent about the great Bible teaching you got here? Listen, guys, I'm not here just to get a big offering. Well, I mean, a little bit, but I mean, hey. This guy standing behind me, I've preached in 40 churches since November. I get around. There's probably three great Bible teachers alive today. I mean, really great in the world. One of them sitting right there. Judgment seat of Christ can be hot for you, kid. You take that indifferently. Because Jesus rose from the dead, and there is a new day in town. There is a new life that you're supposed to live. You have been commissioned by the Lord.

In closing, I would say this. When you see this life for the way it really is, you want to do everything you can for the Lord. I want to go to every missions conference I can go to. I want to go to every country I can go to. I want to witness to every lost Chinaman, every lost Thai, every lost Kenyan. I want to go to the Amazon. I want to go to Central America. I want to witness to Sandinistas in Nicaragua. I want to go to every single one. I want to write every single book. I want to do every single mission trip. And when it's over, I'll just die. Then I'll come back one more time at the second Advent of Jesus Christ. And that's where life starts to get good. Man, if you haven't got that figured out, you're missing the greatest black swan event of all time. It changed the world.

Let's pray. Father God, Lord, thank you so much for these that have listened so carefully. Thank you for the privilege it's been to sit in this pulpit. Lord, I love you in Jesus' name. Amen.