

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. (Mark 16:7-8)

Trust Him at His Word

“Just trust me; it'll be fine.” Many con artists have used that phrase over the years. They have built just enough of a friendship with a person. Then, they say that slippery phrase to get what they want and it's all over. The con artist has taken money, jewelry, or a precious possession; and they are gone. Unsurprisingly, when we hear this phrase, or when news seems too good to be true, we often are skeptical.

Now the women here were not conned. They knew their Teacher and Savior. They knew who he was. When they hear the news, however, the women don't react the way we would expect. They should be running with joy to tell the disciples. But they don't. They tremble. They flee. They are silent. They're even afraid. Did they think they had been conned? Or was their trust misplaced?

Their trust was misplaced. They had put their trust in what they could see. They could see Jesus. They could see his miracles. They could see the effects of Jesus' teaching on so many people. They could see how this had inspired the disciples and them. They could not see the Risen Jesus. They only heard the message from a second hand source. Really, they trusted in themselves.

We might think that we would do better. We would've believed the angels, right? We would've rejoiced and went with joy, not fear. However, as we examine ourselves in light of everything, too often we can have our trust misplaced. We put our trust in what we see.

We see God's good blessings in our life. When we have them, we are great. When we lose them, we can be bewildered and think God is angry with us. We can see good people, faithful Christians in our lives. When they move away or go to be with their Savior, we may become fearful and flee. We may know our own abilities and wisdom, and depend on them to make it through the storm, but when they fail or when they come into question, we may say nothing at all to the challenges of Satan and the world in and around us.

If we find in our lives those symptoms – bewildered, anger, silence, and fear, we have misplaced trust. We don't trust God or his Word. We trust ourselves. We trust what we can see, because we want God to comfort us in our way, not his.

That's why God comforts them in a unique way. He does not show them. He tells them, because he wants to trust him at his Word. He does not send Jesus, he sends a holy angel, because he wants to trust him at his Word. This shouldn't bewilder us. He has been doing this since the beginning. Read Hebrews 11. Everything he did for those believers in that chapter and everything he does for the women here was to cause them to trust him at his Word.

See what that Word has done. God promised; Jesus fulfilled it. God promised to send his Son; Jesus came to live the perfect life God demanded from you. God promised to wipe away your sins; in the blood of the spotless Lamb they are gone. God promised a Savior that would rise; Jesus rose from death to everlasting life! God promised a Messiah that would reign; Jesus ascended into heaven to do just that. God makes promises; his Word fulfills them. Although the way we do business and carry on with our lives may change, God's faithful Word, our Savior Jesus Christ, does not change and will remain faithful to you.

This same Word calls to us today, "Trust me; you'll see. It'll be fine." Just like the women, his promises work in our hearts to strengthen our trust in him. He removes our false idols, so all we can see are the promises and those promises fulfilled. Yes, it may take time, but his Word and the promises he has fulfilled and keeps fulfilling today strengthen our trust in him. Our faith grows by hearing about our Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Just like the women would later do, we rejoice, so that others may see those wonderful promises in his Word and that they may rejoice to see his promises fulfilled. Amen.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, so much of my life is out of my control. Nature, disease, the will of others, and sometimes my own ignorance and foolishness, cause me to want to run and hide. But you have risen! Because you have risen, I no longer want total control, nor do I fear those things out of my control. I commend all things to your powerful hands. Restore and renew my courage to live in you by living with your Word close to my heart. May that courage that you give me through your Word overflow to those around me. Give me the honor of encouraging others with that same Word, so that we may all stand in glory and see the promises of God totally fulfilled. Amen.