



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY February 25 & BEYOND”

“Proof for Believing”



MS 2048
Bible, John 8, Egypt, late 2nd c. The oldest MS of this part of the Bible

I've heard it said, “Too bad Jesus didn't wait to show up until, like, last week. We could have had videos on YouTube gone viral and really proven who he was!”

But, hey, too bad for all those people between 2000 years ago and now who believed in him, right? That sentiment is kind of a sign of our

society's times, a “me first” thing. Still, the sentiment is not new, in the sense of what seems underneath to be asked, “Was Jesus for real?” And, compared to the technology of communication between now and then, “then” leaves a lot to be desired! At least from “now's” perspective. I mean, they thought back then that they did pretty well. And we do still have four different records of the life and ministry and claims of this Jesus of Nazareth. And they are part of what is still a world best-seller, the Bible.

But back to the sentiment of the contemporary proofing of Jesus, which, really, has been with us in every generation since, not just in our own times. On Sunday, in so many churches around the whole world, including on Sunday at All Saints Church, there is a reading taken from the Gospel according to Mark, which goes much to the proofing of the reality, both divine and human, of this Jesus.

But before we get to that, yes, there are sources OUT-side of the Bible; and sources outside of the Christian faith itself that tell us of the man Jesus of Nazareth who lived at that time as a preacher, and had a cultural effect in the lives of people at that time. For some people, that's enough of a proof along with the Gospels to become believers. For some that is not enough, and they need to look with a much more critical eye into the internal evidence of the Bible itself. Very famous and very brilliant people, among so many others, have taken that route and come face to face with the reality of Jesus himself. And they accepted the truth, and became believers. So that works, too.

So what is it about this Gospel reading from Mark chapter 8 that has some proofing

of Jesus? Well, it comes out with a HUGE prediction by this Jesus himself in verse 31, as the author tells of how Jesus told the disciples in their small gathering of what he saw happening to himself in the near future. FYI, the Church considers this a prophecy, the telling forth of something to happen as that person is informed by the Holy Spirit. In the same way, the great Prophets Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah and others spoke out what God wanted the world to know about the coming of the Messiah --- 400 to 600 years before he arrived being born! Anyway, what Jesus prophesied was his rejection by most of the Jewish leaders and rulers, his being killed by their condemnation, and then that he would rise again from death on a third day. This is a major and incredible way he was saying he was – and would continue to be – who he said he was, and is. And it happened that way! The real deal.

The second major proof in this Sunday's gospel was what was the viral video of their day – the wildfire spread of what Jesus was doing by “word of mouth”. And as a result, huge crowds of people were coming from everywhere. Every one of them was a witness. And the word continued to be spread because they heard his authentic teaching and preaching, and saw and perhaps felt for themselves the power of God he had to share.

It demands your consideration to believe. Try it. You have nothing and everything to lose. May you find and embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of the Word, Jesus Christ, the living Son of God.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: The Second Sunday in Lent

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

5:15p Evening Prayer, Soup, and Study (Parish Hall)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

WEDNESDAY: Noon Stations of the Cross (Church)

FRIDAY: 6:15pm Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:30pm Bach Collegium Concert (Church)
Soundscape – Musical Architects of the Baroque
Scarlatti, Monteverdi, and Schütz

SATURDAY: Societies of Mary Day of Devotion
11:00a Rosary (St. Mary's Chapel)
11:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)
Noon Potluck Lunch (Parish Hall)
AA Meetings
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)