

Mark 16:7a
AND PETER

- I. Especially Peter.
 - A. One of Jesus' first thoughts as He arose was of His disciples and Peter.
 - B. When Peter is specifically mentioned, he is distinguished from the other disciples.
 - 1. Peter separated himself from the others by boasting self-confidently, putting himself above the rest of the disciples.
 - 2. But then Peter separated from the other disciples when he denied Jesus three times.
 - C. When told of this message, Peter thought that Jesus now considered himself to be outside the circle of His disciples.
 - 1. If the angels had only said, "Tell my disciples," Peter would have concluded that the message was not for him.
 - 2. This awakened his conscience even more than when he went out and wept bitterly (14:72; Matt. 26:75).
- II. Especially reassuring.
 - A. Jesus' messenger called him, "Peter," not Simon.
 - B. The message is: "He is risen; He is not here. Go so He can meet you."
 - 1. Death cannot hold Him; the crucified One is risen and He lives.
 - 2. This message is for all in the darkness of sin: all of our sins are forgiven, not matter how many, how great, how shameful.
- III. Especially comforting for "Peters."
 - A. God's love always adds, "and tell the Peters among My people."
 - B. This emphasizes that that God's love for us in Christ is always first.
 - 1. God's infinite love is always first; it is an everlasting love.
 - 2. When we fall into sin, God's love never fails, for it remains and it conquers, bringing the sacrifice of His own Son.
 - 3. When the Peters among My people are afraid that they are loved, tell them of My love.