

Easter Sunday Service: Mark 16: 1 - 8

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

Teenagers today are faced with so many temptations in school and out of school. Temptations like drinking, drugs and having sex. We may not always realize it but these temptations are being advocated everywhere; TV shows, movies, music, etc. The older generations look down on us because we are "young and stupid", we let those in our society who make these mistakes take all the credit and blame for the way the older generation see us, but what we don't do enough is show them that there are those out there like me and you that avoid these temptations and follow in God's word. As a teenager I know how tempting these things can be for us and how easy it is to forget about God and do them just for that one night just so you can fit in with everyone else. But when you look back on that night and really think about it, you realize that it really wasn't worth it. Being in high school I got the chance to go on mission trips during the summer and help improve, strengthen, and purify my faith in God as a Christian Teenager.

I have gone on a mission trip every summer since I started high school. I have been to St. Charles LA, New Orleans, and Ensenada Mexico; so far. The work that we do on these trips to help those who are less fortunate than us is done by God but through our hands. It's like we are his little helpers. Every trip has changed me in ways that I never thought were possible. You go on the trip as one person and then before you know it the trip is over and you are leaving a completely changed person. And then in my case you start to drift away from God again and let everything get to you, I tended to keep everything bottled up inside and not hand it all over to God, like I know I should of. But then the next year's mission trip comes around and you change yourself once again. My last trip to Ensenada, really changed my life drastically and I haven't gone back to keeping everything inside, I turn all of my problems and worries over to God, and I always seek him for help in everything I do. Without the mission trip I don't think I would be the person that I am today. Each mission trip has what is called a "Commitment Service", which to me is one of my favorite times of the entire trip. During this service you become so much closer to God. You get to have as much time as you need to talk to one on one with him and tell him everything that is going on in your life. Ask him for forgiveness for all of the sins you've created, and just listen to him as he talks to you. A lot of us pray to God for the answers to our questions and/ or problems, we look for him to solve everything that goes wrong in our lives; but what we don't do is we don't take the time to actually sit down, be quiet and listen to what God has to tell us. Everyone is given a mountain to climb in their life, and I believe that without God in your life to help you out, you'll never make it to the top; which to me is heaven. Granted you'll slip and fall sometimes and have to start over again and the next time trying harder, but you have to believe that God is there to catch you when you fall and he's always there to help you accomplish your climb to the top. These mission trips have taught me a lot through out my years in high school. Things like you don't have to be like everyone else around you and you're your own person and that you can always turn to God when you need help. In the Gospel it talks about how Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome fled the tomb after they noticed that Jesus was not there, it states "...they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid" (Mark 16: 8) The mission trips teach you that you shouldn't be afraid to speak God's word and that you should never be ashamed of him. When I leave these trips I feel like I have been resurrected in the faith of God and that I have a whole new out-look on life through the eyes of a good Christian.