

Mark 16:1-8 – Jesus was Raised from the Dead for you!

TSK, GreekLexicon, Calvin, Henry, Gill, Poole, Barnes, Clarke, Vincent, Robertson, Trapp, Alexander, Geneva, Brink, Lightfoot, Handfuls, INT
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus' disciples and friends had no expectation of his resurrection and made no plans for his resurrection. They were so certain that he would still be dead that some women went to take care of his dead body on the Sunday after his crucifixion to complete the preservation process of his body.

But God showed them! **God showed them Jesus was raised from the dead for them...** and God showed them that **the living Jesus was the one who would preserve their souls and give them a new body.** This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Devotion: Serve the Lord

Discovery: Jesus was Raised

Direction: Pass on the News

Our goals are: That you will believe and **rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus,** knowing you were in him when he was raised from the dead, and you will work to **spread the message of his resurrection** so the world can be saved.

Devotion: Serve the Lord

1 Now when the Sabbath was past, **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James,** and **Salome** bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 **Very early in the morning,** on the **first day of the week,** they came to the tomb **when the sun had risen.**

1. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to put spices on Jesus' body.

They had followed and served him wherever he traveled and they wanted to continue to do so, even after he died.

Only Mark mentions Salome. Why is that? Not every writer records every detail!

2. These women who came to the tomb were women of courage, as opposed to the cowardly men who abandoned Jesus.

The men were like Martha (caring for personal honor) and being involved in the **theological debate:** Who would be greatest in the kingdom?

The women were like Mary (devoting themselves to Christ). More, these **women were courageous and fearless.** This was **why they went out of the city while it was still dark,** without protection, to a graveyard. **No wonder these women were given the honor of being the first witnesses to Christ's resurrection.**

Some try to argue that the 4 Gospel texts contradict each other about the time the women went, but there is none.

John 20:1 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was **still dark**, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

They women went early before dawn, and came to the tomb about sunrise. This is just an issue of perception. Is the cup half-empty or half-full?

3. These women came with urgency...the first day after the Sabbath.

See the providence of God here. If Jesus were not crucified the day before the Sabbath then the women would have come the next day to put spices on him **and they would not have witnessed the resurrection**. But this was God's plan!

4. These women expected to serve – but to serve a dead Christ.

They forgot Christ would be the “Deer of the Morning” (Psalm 22), the Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16), and the “Sun of Righteousness with healing in his wings.” (Malachi 4) So they brought spices that would preserve his body and make the area smell better. They forgot his message that Jesus was living before Abram...and he was the Son of God – and he and the Father were one...and he was the resurrection and the source of all life.

So with spices in hand they reached the tomb, ready to put spices on the body and show their love and devotion to Jesus.

But in this they were acting like Hindus who believe that sincerity is the key to worship. **If they had listened to Christ's words, they would know he would be risen!** Many times he said he would be raised.

5. Lessons:

a. God's hand guided man's redemption from the Fall to the 2nd coming of Jesus; from Genesis to the grave.

b. Devotion to the Lord is seen in service, not just talk!

c. You must serve the Lord in the way he desires. So know what God desires. God does not want ignorant affections. He **did not want myrrh and aloes from the women, he wanted adoration.**

Discovery: Jesus was Raised

3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

1. As the women walked to the cemetery they wondered who would roll the large, heavy stone away so they could get access to the Lord's body.

Even small Jewish graves had to be at least 2m x 3m, so the stone would have been large. The women didn't know Pilate had put his seal on the tomb and had placed guards there also, otherwise they would not have even tried to go there.

4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away —

for it was very large.

2. Seeing the large stone rolled away suggested to them someone had taken the Lord's body away.

But who would steal Christ's body? Was it a friend or an enemy? Was the body eaten by wild animals? They were perplexed. They could not understand how this could have happened. Imagine the panic!

5 And entering the tomb, they **saw a young man** clothed **in a long white robe** sitting on the right side; and **they were alarmed**.

3. As they entered the tomb to find answers, they were met with a young man smartly dressed.

Seeing someone there caused their fear level to rise.

Luke says they bowed down in fear to TWO men. Is there a contradiction?

Luke 24:4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were **afraid and bowed their faces to the earth...**

Mark, following Old Testament tradition, **described only the one who spoke**. It would be silly to think the 2 angels spoke the same words in unison. (Abram had 3 visitors, but only one spoke.)

Also, Mark used the words "white robe" and Luke used shiny robes. But there is no contradiction. When light shines on white, it becomes shiny, especially when the white object moves into the early morning sun. So if they were sitting inside the tomb their robes would have appeared white (Mark) and if they were outside standing, the robes might have appeared shiny.

4. The women became alarmed - feared - because they did not remember the words of Jesus that he would be raised from the dead on the 3rd day.

Matthew 17:22-23... Jesus said to them, "**The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up...**

6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

5. The angels assured the women they had no reason to fear.

No one had stolen Jesus' body. No animal had eaten the body. Jesus was alive. They would see him themselves. Christ had to be crucified: a very shameful, and painful death...just as he spoke.

Christ had to descend into the grave. Resurrection from this **unclean place was part of Christ's humiliation process...**

6. Lessons:

a. Jesus is alive. Because he lives you can live. Worried about your spouse dying from cancer? Worried about your children dying in an accident? Worried that you can die in a plane crash? Don't. You have a resurrection! So live victoriously!

b. Announce with joy that Christ was raised that the spiritually dead can be raised! Christ conquered death.

c. Why were so many details given about the resurrection? All of these details of Christ's resurrection teach the truthfulness of Jesus' words he had spoken before he died. You do the same thing. Details illustrate truth. You might say: We were on the bridge, it was in the moonlight...there was a light drizzle...then we saw the explosion...And this is what preaching is. **It is a reminder of the details of what Christ has done for you so you could trust him more.**

d. You perplex yourself with things that should be comforting when you don't know the Bible well. Yes, a **timely recollection of God's words is always useful to help with present problems in your life.** Ignorance leads to panic.

Direction: Pass on the news

7 "But go, tell His disciples — and Peter — that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

1. The angels instructed the women to go and pass on the news that Jesus was alive; he was raised just as he had said to them!

Luke 24: 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 "He is not here, but is risen! **Remember how He spoke to you** when He was still in Galilee, 7 "saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" 8 And they remembered His words.

8 So they **went out quickly and fled from the tomb**, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for **they were afraid**.

2. Two of the 3 women then left quickly, having remembered the words of the Lord, while Mary Magdalene remained.

Their **faith moved them to action** - passing on the truth. (James) They could not hide good news. And they ran excitedly, but they also ran with fear...real fear.

Matthew 28:8 So they went out quickly from the tomb **with fear and great joy**, and ran to bring His disciples word.

They were afraid the Jews might have charged them with stealing the body of Jesus, but were joyful to share the good news.

3. Mary Magdalene then met Jesus in the Garden, forming a greater degree of witness- from

hearing from the angels - to seeing and hearing Jesus himself. (Matthew)

Mary Magdalene obviously did not go with the 2 other women then.

4. The women had to give the disciples a message: Go to Galilee where Jesus would meet them later.

Isn't it interesting that the Lord did not abandon those who abandoned him? He yet used them!

5. Lessons:

a. Without the resurrection, the Gospel means nothing! Nothing good would happen.

1Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

b. It is true it is not dangerous for you to speak of Christ's resurrection in Canada, but you do encounter mocking and contempt. (If you don't get funny looks, it could be you don't speak enough.) And because the resurrection is so important that no one can be saved if they don't believe it, **you have to tell it to those who want to hear.** And young people, remember this: This pressure is much greater on you. Your friends may laugh at your belief, but they need Christ resurrection! **If you love them, tell them.**

Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore..."

John 14:19 ... Because I live, you will live also.

c. Don't rely on an image, or a crucifix, or a strange tradition for help to have courage to speak or live for Jesus. Jesus has revealed himself in his Word and confirms it by his Holy Spirit. Speak because you know **he can protect you and strengthen you!**

d. Speak, but also show people that Christ is living in you. The way you live is the best way of showing the resurrection.

e. Women are called to bear the message of Jesus Christ everywhere!

Conclusion:

The resurrection proved everything Jesus said. The resurrection guaranteed that everyone who believes in Christ would be raised from the dead also.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. When you firmly hold to the resurrection you have reason to rejoice. The resurrection guarantees life for eternity.

2. When you firmly hold to the resurrection you won't live as if Christ were dead. You will

be bold.

3. When you firmly hold to the resurrection you will have courage to keep fighting sin, the Devil, the world, and your flesh. You know you will live forever so you fight.

4. When you firmly believe in Christ's resurrection, you will announce it to the world knowing that no one can be saved without believing in it. Christ's atonement for sins and his resurrection from the dead save.

If you are not a Christian, know Jesus is alive, though he once died as punishment for the sins of the whole world. If you want him to take away your sins and give you new life, ask and you will receive. He will do a work in your heart that will amaze you.