

Mark 16:1-8 – The resurrection of Jesus

What would you have done on the Sunday we are reading about? Jesus had been arrested at night, and then tried, and then put to death the next day. His disciples had fled, and were afraid that they would be taken next. Jesus was buried, and it looked like his mission had ended with death. Then the Jewish Sabbath day had come, and everyone rested. Then it was Sunday. What now?

1. Approaching the tomb (v1-3)

After the Sabbath, the women came to anoint Jesus' body. They wanted to do more for Jesus, because they loved him. Do you? They had faith and courage. They did not make excuses but went, even though the stone was very big and the other disciples had fled. Because they had faith, they received the blessing at the tomb. Do you have faith? Their faith was not perfect; in fact, they had not listened and believed properly the teaching that Jesus would rise again. There was no need to anoint his body, he was not dead! We must grow not only in courage but also in understanding (2 Peter 1:5, 3:18). We will then serve better.

2. Entering the tomb (v4-6)

The stone was already rolled away. In the tomb, they met an angel. They were afraid, but there was no need. The angel had great news: Jesus who died, was now alive. He had risen! The tomb was empty, there was nothing to see there. Jesus is alive today: not simply in our hearts, or in the ideas or worship of his followers. He is alive in body and soul, his grave is empty! Therefore, he is Lord of all. He has defeated death. Nothing in heaven or earth can overcome him. Every person now must bow to him, and worship him as the one true Lord. Have you? He is also the one Saviour. No president or prime minister can defeat death, but Jesus has. God accepted his offering for sin, and the price was fully paid. Now he offers us his resurrection life. Have you trusted in him?

3. Leaving the tomb (v7-8)

The good news was not only for the women. The disciples must now be told. There was a great message to share, and a work to do. There were commands to obey. The women were told to go. The message told the disciples to go to Galilee. Jerusalem, though the great city, was now rejected, and the Great Commission would be given from Galilee. Do not look in the world's great places to find the glory of Jesus, but look for the humble who love him! It was all to happen "as he said" (v7). There are no real surprises in the Christian life; we are told to expect trouble, and suffering, and glory afterwards. The Bible explains the ways that God works, so that we should trust him. There was a special message for Peter. Peter had denied Christ very terribly. But now he was named, to comfort him. Whatever terrible evil you have done, Jesus is tender and kind and will forgive you when you repent. The women went out amazed and frightened. Everything had now changed. Has it for you?