

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

He Lives

Sermon Single | Mark 16:1-8

INTRODUCTION

On Easter, we celebrate the great reset button of human history. All across the world, Christians gather to honor the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This single event makes all the difference. Without the Resurrection, the cross is a tragedy, and our faith is meaningless. But because He lives, we have hope. We have the promise that we will see our loved ones who know Christ again, and most importantly, we will see Jesus face to face.

The story in Mark's Gospel begins with women on their way to a tomb, asking a practical question: "Who will roll the stone away?" They arrived expecting to find a body to anoint, but what they found instead rocked their world. An angel, a rolled away stone, and a message that changed everything: "He has risen. He is not here." That message echoes through eternity, inviting us to have an encounter with the risen Lord that will make all the difference in our lives, too.

KEY POINTS

1. The Resurrection Gives Us Purpose

Before the Resurrection, the disciples were cowards, hiding behind locked doors in fear for their lives. The cross had scattered them. But after they encountered the risen Christ, they were transformed into bold witnesses with a clear mission. For the first time, they understood what they were to do with their lives: take the message of Jesus to the entire world. An encounter with the living Christ gives our lives direction, shapes our behavior, and energizes our passion. It builds a commitment that can withstand any trial because our lives are no longer our own; they are defined by His purpose.

2. A Life of Purpose Creates a Thirst for Christ in Others

When we live with the purpose given to us by the resurrected Christ, our lives become a powerful testimony. As the Christian writer Watchman Nee said, "God's purpose for your life is to create thirst for Christ in their life." In other words, we are called to be salty. When people see you living with power, passion, and true purpose, it creates a longing in them to have what you have. A nonchalant faith is not attractive. But a life transformed by the power of the Resurrection will be used by God to shake other people for Christ.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

He Lives

Sermon Single | Mark 16:1-8

The Resurrection should make a difference not just on Easter Sunday, but every day. For many, however, there is no difference yet. This might be because you have not had a true encounter with Christ, or perhaps you had one long ago but have since gotten over it. Today is a day to push the reset button.

If you have never met Christ, today can be the day you acknowledge your need for a Savior, give your life to Him, and allow Him to change you from the inside out. If you are a follower of Jesus but have lost your passion and purpose, you need a fresh encounter with Him. God can break down the hardness in your heart and re-energize you to live with purpose, just as the first disciples did.

This purpose is not reserved for perfect people in perfect situations. Whether you are struggling with illness, navigating difficult family relationships, or facing uncertainty, God has a purpose for you in the midst of it. Instead of just enduring your circumstances, ask God, "What are my marching orders? What do you want me to do with what you have trusted me with?" When you live like this, your life becomes a witness to the power of the resurrected Jesus.

HIGHER AIM WITH DR. CURT DODD

He Lives

Sermon Single | Mark 16:1-8

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Dr. Dodd says that an encounter with the risen Christ gives us purpose. In what areas of your life, from family to work to personal struggles, do you need to ask God for clarity on His purpose for you right now?
2. The sermon calls believers to be “salty” so that our lives create a thirst for Christ in others. What is one practical change you can make this week to live with more passion and purpose, reflecting the power of the resurrection to those around you?
3. Whether you have never met Christ or have walked with Him for years, the message is the same: you need an encounter with Jesus. What does it look like for you to seek a fresh encounter with Him today, moving beyond religion to a real relationship?
