

Sermon Title: Astonishing Hope

Sermon Series: Easter – The Road to Hope

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



How does an empty grave on an ancient spring day give us hope?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Mark 15:39-41 ESV

39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" 40 There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. 41 When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Mark 15:46-47 ESV

46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Mark 16:1-3 ESV

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

Mark 16:4-6 ESV

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.

1. The empty tomb provides astonishing hope that the world has _____.

– The Historical/Eye-Witness Evidence

“I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren’t true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world—and they couldn’t keep a lie for three weeks. You’re telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible.”

—Charles Colson

— The Evidence of the Women

“The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God’s presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won’t stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!”

—Charles W. Hall – <https://www.communicatejesus.com/post/40-quotes-life-changing-power-resurrection>

2. The empty tomb gives hope to the _____

Mark 16:7 ESV

7 But go, tell his disciples and **Peter** that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

"[Peter's] life shows us that God's kingdom isn't about earning salvation, it's about receiving grace. When Jesus rose from the dead, it was proof that our sins are forgiven. Even our worst mistakes can lead to new beginnings."

—Tim Keller - <https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/the-empty-tomb/>

3. The empty tomb should _____ us with hope.

Mark 16:8 ESV

8 And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

1. Do you see the hope that the world has _____?

2. Do you see there is hope for the _____?

3. Do you _____ the empty tomb is for you?

The empty tomb gives us astonishing hope of life with God.