

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 53: The Tomb is [Still] Empty

Mark 16:1-8 (NLT) *The Resurrection*

¹ Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

⁵ When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, ⁶ but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. ⁷ Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died."

⁸ The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.

The tomb is [still] empty!

7 Irrefutable Reasons to Believe in the Resurrection

1. **Where embraced, Christianity transforms people and the world around them.**
 - a. Examples:
2. **Jesus predicted his own death and resurrection.**

Mark 8:31 (NLT), "³¹ Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead."

(Also see Mark 9:31, 10:33-34, Matthew 12:39)

3. **The continued uncovering of written and archeological evidence is overwhelming.**
 - a. Examples:
 - b. **N.T. Authors:** Over and over in the N.T., the authors consistently declare the same miraculous event (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:10, 5:30, 10:40, 13:30; Rom. 4:24, 6:4, 8:11, 10:9; 1 Cor. 6:14, 15:15; 2 Cor. 4:14, 1 Peter 1:21)
4. **Jesus demonstrated resurrection power.**
 - a. **Widow of Nain's son – Luke 7:11-17**
 - b. **Jairus' daughter – Mark 5:21**
 - c. **Lazarus – John 11:1-44**
5. **Only the resurrection can explain the conversion of those against him.**
 - a. **Saul/Paul conversion – Acts 9:3-20.**
 - i. Evidence:

ii. **1 Corinthians 15:3-8** (NLT) ³I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

b. **James the brother of Christ:**

6. **No motivation to invent the resurrection narrative is found.**

a. Examples:

b. **Luke 24:21** (NLT) ²¹We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

c. The Criteria of Embarrassment:

d. *“Every theory, ancient and modern, all objections about the validity of the Resurrection of Jesus, are shattered by this one question: ‘What become of Christ’s body?’”* R. Kent Hughes

7. **The resurrection of Christ is the only way we can make sense of suffering.**

a. Evidence:

b. *“Sunday’s children live in the historical, intellectual, and emotional reality of the Resurrection. Next to the empty tomb and the witness of God’s Word, it is Sunday’s children who form the greatest argument for the Resurrection.”* R. Kent Hughes

WHY DOES THE RESURRECTION’S REALITY MATTER?

Because all of Christianity rests on this single claim.

“One thing is certain – if Jesus had not risen from the dead, we would never have heard of him.”

William Barclay