

THE END MARKS THE BEGINNING

Mark 15:40-16:8

July 27, 2025 | Pastor Keith Krell



SERMON APPLICATION REVIEW

How did you intentionally bear your cross this past week (15:21)?

How did you utilize your access to God (15:38)?

How did you boast in the cross (15:39; Galatians 6:14)?

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 15:40-16:8; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 1:16-17; 1 Peter 2:9-10

2 Peter 1:3-4; Romans 1:4; 4:25; Matthew 28:19-20

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus' female disciples chose to stay close to Him when others fled (15:40-41)? How does their example challenge you to remain faithful in difficult or lonely seasons? Who in your life is going through a tough time? What practical steps of support can you take this week?
2. What can you do to help "secret" disciples (John 19:38) recognize the importance of publicly following Christ (15:43)? When are you most tempted to stay silent about your faith out of fear or pressure? What would it look like to take a courageous step through words, actions, or sacrifice? What resources, opportunities, or influence has God given you to serve Him, especially when it's risky or unpopular?
3. Why is the historical nature of Christ's death and resurrection critical for the Christian faith (16:1-8)? When and how did you become convinced of Christ's resurrection? How would you explain the evidence for the resurrection to a skeptic? In what ways can your daily life (e.g., work, school, friendships, social media) become a platform to point others to the risen Jesus?
4. How is fear a natural response to encountering the supernatural work of God (16:8)? What helps you move from fear to faith? What fears does God need to replace with courage from His Holy Spirit? Why does faith in Jesus help us overcome our fears and embarrassment about telling others the good news?
5. Can you think of a book, movie, or television program with an ending that didn't feel like an ending (16:8)? What effect did this have on you? In what way was the ending an intentional technique? If you could, would you give Mark a different ending than the one the Gospel went into circulation with? Why or why not?

RECOMMENDED READING

Richard Bauckham, *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*, 2nd ed. (Eerdmans, 2017)

Tom Houston, *Were You There?* (Regal, 1987)

D. A. Carson, *Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus* (Baker, 2010)

David Alan Black, Darrell Bock, Keith Elliott, Maurice Robinson, and Daniel B. Wallace, *Perspectives on the Ending of Mark: 4 Views* (B&H Academic, 2008)