

He Gives Us a Reason

The dearest memories fade. The ancient Greeks had a word to describe time that meant “time which wipes all things out.” This would have been the case with Jesus ... if there were no resurrection. The greatest blessing in the world is that the memory of Jesus has never faded with time. On this day we are prompted to focus on the resurrection, which is fitting and good. We come together this day with hearts of thankfulness and joy. For had our Lord not been raised, we would all be without hope and, as Paul said, men and women most pitiable.

I. Mark 16.1-5a - The Testimony of the Empty Tomb

- A. 16.1 - These women prepared their own **spices** as one last act of devotion to their lord.
- B. 16.2 - They arrive at the tomb around **sunrise**.
- C. 16.3 - How will we remove the stone?
- D. 16.4 - They arrive and find the stone had been **rolled** away.
 - 1. They walk in to an empty tomb. They weren't expecting the resurrection.
 - 2. The fact that there was an empty tomb is not disputed.
 - a) Matthew 28.11 - Roman soldiers knew it was empty.
 - b) John 20.6-7 - Peter & John knew it was empty.

II. Mark 16.5b-6 - Angelic Testimony

- A. 16.5b - as the women enter, sitting on their right was *a young man dressed in a **white** robe*.
- B. 16.6 - “Don't be alarmed.” “He has **risen!** He is not here.”
- C. Angels are divine messengers and their testimony represents the testimony of the Father Himself.

III. Mark 16.7-8 - Eyewitness Testimony

- A. 16.7 - “you will see **him** there.” They are being directed to Jesus Himself.
 - 1. Where? **Galilee**. Direct fulfillment of Mark 14.28.
- B. 16.8 - the women leave the tomb in stunned amazement.

IV. As We Close:

- A. There is more to Jesus than the cross.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15.19-20 - we have hope for both **this life** and the life to come....
 - 2. Romans 4.25; 1 Peter 2.24; Romans 8.11 - you will go on living long after the last date on your headstone. In fact, you'll live throughout eternity.
- B. The resurrection is about Jesus' living presence. *He is not merely a historical figure*.
 - 1. Revelation 1.17-18: He is the Son of God *who is the first and the last. He is the **living** one, who was dead, but is now alive forever and ever*.
 - 2. He is the one *who holds the keys of death and hades*.
- C. The resurrection is not a matter of knowing about Jesus ... but knowing Jesus.
- D. Inherent in this story is God's incredible message of forgiveness.
 - 1. 16.7 - “Go ... tell his disciples *and **Peter**...*” Where did we last see Peter?
 - 2. Jesus was far more eager to comfort the penitent sinner than punish the sin.
- E. If today, you come to Jesus on the field of defeat ... I want you to know that there is a Savior who wants to save your life. Do you believe? Will you come?