DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

Our text, Mark 16:1-8, give us Mark's terse account of the resurrection of Jesus: the women's discovery of the empty tomb, the explanation given by a young man in a white robe, and their flight away from the tomb in astonishment and fear.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Who are the women Mark identifies in the group that discovered the empty tomb? What do we know about their stories? (Study Bible notes or commentaries may help here.)
- 2. Why were they going to the tomb?
- 3. What concern did they discuss on the way?
- 4. What details does Mark give us concerning the young man they found in the tomb?
- 5. What facts and instructions did they hear from him?
- 6. How did they react to what they had seen and heard?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. We commonly understand the young man in the tomb as an angel, but Mark doesn't identify him as an angel. Why do we think he was an angel?
- 2. The sermon invites us to think about what the Christian faith would look like without the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Without the Resurrection, we would have the tragic, inspiring story of a man too good for this wicked world. But the Apostle Paul says Christianity wouldn't be a religion worth following without the Resurrection. Paul says that Christianity without the Resurrection would, in fact, be absurd. Read 1 Cor 15:12-28 to see Paul's "if...then" line of reasoning about why the Resurrection is crucial to the integrity of the Christian faith. What are the implications "if Christ be not risen"?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

We have not finished reflecting on Scripture until we begin to employ first-person pronouns. Here we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word.

- 1. New Testament scholar NT Wright says we need to understand what happened that first Easter morning as a kind of invasion with reverberating effects: "Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming from the future into the present," says Wright. "Our task in the present is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second." NT Wright, Surprised by Hope
 - If we are "resurrection people," what difference can our neighbors and co-workers see in our lives? How can an event that happened 2000 years ago make a difference in our lives that people can notice today?
- 2. Eugene Peterson, translator of the popular *Message* paraphrase, says that a right understanding of the Resurrection infuses our spiritual formation with wonder: "If Jesus' resurrection is at the center of our spiritual formation—which I'm convinced it is—then this sense of wonder is a big part of what is going on. Without wonder, we approach spiritual formation as a self-help project. We employ techniques. We analyze gifts and potentialities. We set goals. We assess progress. Spiritual formation is reduced to cosmetics." Eugene Peterson, *Living the Resurrection*.
 - Was there ever a time when your spiritual life was animated by a sense of wonder? How can we keep a sense of wonder in our spiritual lives?

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