

SERMON SERIES: Encounters

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Key Line

The unexpected can change everything.

Introduction

Describe a time that something completely unexpected happened to you. What happened? How did you feel?

Seek the Word

Read Mark 16:1-8. For thousands of years, people had been hoping for a savior. Generations of people had hoped for a change, for salvation. God had a plan for more than just living and dying with no fulfillment of his promise for a savior.

- Throughout the Old Testament and into the beginning of the New Testament, what were people waiting for? (*God had promised to send Jesus to save people from their sins.*)
- In Mark 16, Jesus had just been crucified a few days before. Women were on the way to the tomb. Why were they going to the tomb? (*They were going to anoint Jesus' body. They had not fully prepared Jesus' body for burial and were going to do so.*)
- What did they find when they arrived at the tomb? (*A young man*) What did he tell them? (*Jesus was risen and they should go and tell the others.*)
- Who were the first people who knew about the resurrection? (*Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome*)
- The first people to learn about God's plan for the world were women. Women were mentioned in many of the stories of Jesus' life and played roles in the early Church. What is the significance of women being the first to learn about Jesus' birth, his resurrection, and to be integral parts of his plan? (*Jesus lifted women from their former place of dishonor and brought them to places of importance in the kingdom of God.*)
- When the disciples saw that Jesus had resurrected, what happened in them? How did they change? (*They saw the hope that they now had in a time when the political situation was challenging and even dangerous. Their lives had been changed forever.*)

Talk About It

- What does Jesus' attitude and treatment of women mean for women today? What does it mean for the Church?
- Has your life changed because of the resurrection? How is it different now?