

Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church
Mark 16:1-8 | The Impact of the Resurrection
 December 26, 2021

WELCOME:

- Please turn your Bibles to Mark 16:1-8
- Bibles in back—our gift to you.

REVIEW:

Last week we studied the burial of Jesus of Nazareth.

We learned how Jesus' funeral arrangements were divinely appointed.

We learned how God the Father used men from the Sanhedrin of all people, to give Jesus' body a proper Jewish burial.

Which led us to our key point.

LW KEYPOINT:

When God changes our hearts, we change our priorities.

The changes in our life are visible proof of what we say we believe.

We ended our study on Jesus' burial by asking the question...now what?

Jesus is dead...The End.

Was Jesus a good man who taught good moral things and died as a martyr?

Is Jesus of Nazareth in the same camp as Gandhi, Buddha, Dalai Lama, and Mohammad?

No, and that's not our opinion, is it?

opinions don't hold a lot of weight when it comes to ~~the afterlife~~ Heaven or Hell

Our answers to life's most important questions are found by looking at Scripture.

The Apostle Paul gave us the answer in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 15:13— If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised;

1 Corinthians 15:14— and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith.

1 Corinthians 15:17— And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

That's quite the place to leave off for a week.

But I did it for a reason.

Paul has more to say:

1 Corinthians 15:20— But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead... *STATES a fact, NOT opinion*

The Resurrection is either true, or God is a liar.

Highlight verse 20 in your Bible.

God's Word is true even on our worst day.

Jesus still walked out of His grave even in a moment of crisis where you struggle to believe it. *conquer sin? death*

*- Christ is risen!
God is good! Amen!*

Paul goes on to explain some fundamental theology.

1 Corinthians 15:21— For since death came through a man, the Resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.

1 Corinthians 15:22— For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Dear friends, this is why we, as the Church, meet on Sunday and not Friday.
Every Sunday, we come to celebrate the Resurrection.

Every Sunday, we sing songs, not to a dead man who had good intentions...

NO! But to worship the One True Living God.

This Jesus that I proclaim to you every Sunday is truly alive.

He really did die a criminal's death.

Jesus really did give His life for yours.

And He really did walk out of His own grave...just like He said He would.

INTRODUCTION:

So today, we're going to talk about the specifics of the Resurrection.

And by doing so, we're going to ^{conclude} finish up our verse-by-verse study of the Gospel of Mark.

It's an exciting day!

We have spent the last 20 months, studying Mark's Gospel verse by verse.

78 Sermons later, here we are!

For those of you who are new with us, all of those sermons are on our website along with my notes—RiverBible.org.

Now, as we dive into the Resurrection of Jesus this morning, we're going to learn very quickly here that none of the Gospel writers include details of the actual rising of Jesus from the dead.

Not only that, but Mark's Gospel ends in a very peculiar way.

Some say that Mark ends the Gospel in a very disappointing way.

Why do people say that?

Why would we differ in their opinion? Let's find out!

Please stand for the reading and honoring of God's Word.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8 CSB

Mark 16:1—When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him.

Mark 16:2—Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise.

Mark 16:3—They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?"

Mark 16:4—Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

Mark 16:5—When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed.

Mark 16:6— “Don’t be alarmed,” he told them. “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him.

Mark 16:7— But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”

Mark 16:8— They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

PRAY:

*I will always obey your instruction,
forever and ever.*
(Psalm 119:44)

EXEGESIS:

Mark 16:1—When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they could go and anoint him.

So right from the start, what’s Mark telling us?

If these women disciples of Jesus carry spices to anoint Jesus’ dead corpse, what does that mean?

They didn’t believe Jesus when He told them about the Resurrection.

Jesus told them three times! (Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34)

These women were not planning on Jesus walking out of His own grave on Sunday morning—and that includes His own mother.

Question: Why do the women want to anoint Jesus' body?

Because these are the same women who watched Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus take Jesus' body off the cross, wash his body and prepare it for a proper Jewish burial.

We learned last week that Nicodemus had brought nearly a hundred pounds of ~~dry~~, powdered spices that were placed on Jesus' body and spread between the linen wrappings.

And the women watched them do this.

But, here's what the women noticed.

Joe and Nick didn't do it the way the women would have done it.

In other words, Joe and Nick didn't have time to anoint the physical body of Jesus with perfume and oils.

Joe and Nick anointed Jesus' body properly, but not thoroughly.

So the women decided that they were going to be more thorough.

They went to the trouble to buy these perfumes and oils right after the Sabbath day was over—which is Saturday night at sundown.

The shops would open back up for a few hours on Saturday night.

By the time they purchased what they wanted, it would have been too late—too dark—to go directly to the tomb, so they had to wait until Sunday morning.

Now, Do you think they slept at all that night?

What was going through their minds?

A lot of things, I'm sure, but what didn't cross their minds was the episode with Mary of Bethany.

These women forgot that another Mary, had already anointed Jesus with oil and perfume when He was alive.

She broke *an alabaster jar of costly perfume of pure nard* and poured the whole thing on his head, which dripped down His body.

The male disciples then start to yell and scold her, but Jesus steps in very quickly and corrects them.

Mark 14:8—*She has done what she could; she has anointed my body in advance for burial.*

They forgot this...so let's see what happens the following day.

Mark 16:2—*Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went to the tomb at sunrise.*

The Jews don't have names for the days of the week—only numbers.

The first day of the week is Sunday—day #1.

"So the women leave very early in the morning—so no, they didn't get any sleep that night.

We all know that "sorrow wakes us up early."

So they leave in the dark, but the sun begins to rise by the time they arrive.

John's Gospel gives us more detail here.

John 20:1—On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

John 20:2— *So she went running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, "They've taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him!"*

So harmonizing the Gospels shows us that several women went to the tomb in two separate visits.

The first to arrive was Mary Magdalene.

She either walked faster or started earlier than the other women.

She gets to the tomb, turns around, and bolts.

She immediately assumes that someone stole the body.

In her panic, she runs to tell Peter and John.

It never crossed her mind that Jesus is alive.

And this is where Mark picks up the narrative.

A little later, another group of women arrived when the sun was rising, producing more light.

Mark 16:3— *They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?"*

These women are clearly grieving.

And when we grieve, we don't think clearly or logically.

As they get closer to the tomb, they realize that they have a big problem. The problem is that big rock in front of the tomb itself.

The male disciples are also grieving—but their hiding.

The women wouldn't have to think about this issue if the eleven disciples were walking with them.

BUT, the women have no idea of all the activity that happened on Saturday—the ~~Sabbath day~~— at the tomb.

Matthew's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin went to Pilate and asked soldiers to guard the tomb. (Mt 27:62–66).

He tells us that a localized earthquake shook Israel.

Matthew also tells us that an angel shows up and scares off the soldiers.

Lastly, Matt tells us it's the angel who moves the big rock.

So, by the time the women arrived at the tomb, the soldiers had disappeared, and the tomb's entrance was wide-open.

When they arrive, the women are still thinking on a purely ^{human} ~~earthly~~ level—expecting nothing supernatural.

In other words, the women do not come to the tomb with any sense of hope.

Pause... can you feel their tension?

The closer they get to the tomb, the more their anxiety rises, creating more tension.

Mark 16:4— Looking up, they noticed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away.

Notice Mark is not interested in the stone. *-he makes a passing comment*

He is interested in that the tomb is now wide open for all the world to see.

Matthew tells us that an angel rolled the stone away and sat on it.

The picture here is not that the angel politely rolled the stone away ~~aside~~ and kept it in its ~~groove~~.

No, this stone was hurled out of its groove *the way* by the angel.

~~He threw it away from the entrance to the tomb.~~

It's probably lying flat on the ground because Matthew's gospel tells us that he's sitting on it like a seat and waiting for the women.

KEYPOINT 1:

The stone was not moved to let Jesus out, but to let people in.

Notice the terminology *in Mark*

Mark 16:4— ...had been rolled away.

This phrase is a “divine passive,” meaning that the action points to God.

Do we have a conflict in Scripture?

Matthew says that an angel moved it, and Mark points to God Himself.

No, there is no conflict—from a theological perspective, God is the primary cause, and the angel is the secondary.

God moved it through the Angel.
~~The harmony of the Gospels simply reveal how God in His sovereignty was involved throughout this whole event.~~

KEYPOINT 2:

When the angel opened the tomb, Jesus had already risen.

None of our Gospel writers describe the actual Resurrection.

Jesus' Resurrection had no witnesses.

It is utterly and completely miraculous.

Jesus left the tomb silently.

Pause... is that ^{what we would expect?} ~~how we would expect it?~~

Wouldn't you expect the most extraordinary event in the salvation of mankind to be recorded in detail?

Wouldn't you expect fireworks and a parade? *-Not w/ God.*

~~No~~, God's ways are higher than ours. ~~God works above our flawed common sense of the world.~~ *His ways don't make sense to us.*

Mark 16:5— *When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed.*

Don't you love the subtlety of Scripture?

They were alarmed? Man, that's an understatement!

Wouldn't your heart be beating through your chest as you walk into this cave?

You bend down and walk through the small opening, totally expecting to find Jesus's body on the stone bench (15:46)—

But not only do you not see Jesus' dead body, but instead, you see a living angel of the One True God!

Matthew says, "*His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow*" (28:3).

Clearly, this person is a supernatural being.

Pause...what's your first thought at this moment? *→ If this were you, In the presence of a holy Angel?*

"I'm going to die."

* Okay, second thought?—"Someone stole the body!"

It's the same exact thought that Mary Magdalene had.

Why did God send this angel? Angels are messengers.

It was angels who announced the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:10–15), and it's angels who announce His Resurrection.

The sense in verse five is that the women were terrified and fell to the ground covering their faces.

We see this time and time again when angels show up throughout Scripture. (Luke 24:5; cf. Dan. 8:15–18; 10:9; Luke 1:12; 2:9; Acts 10:3–4; Rev. 22:8).

Yeah right!
Mark 16:6— "Don't be alarmed," he told them. "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified."

So the angel tries to reassure these ladies of their safety in their panic.

↳ they are not going to die.

Notice the clarity in which the angel speaks...

Mark 16:6— “You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. ~~He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him.~~

The angel says, “Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.”

In other words, “ladies, you are in the right tomb.”

Mark 16:6— ...*He has risen!* He is not here.

The angel has to repeat himself, because the women are in shock.

It’s like they didn’t catch it the first time.

Most English translations translate verse six this way—“He has risen.”

Unfortunately, this is not the best ^{English} translation.

In Greek, the verb is passive, — “He has been raised!”

~~This phrase rightly implies that it is God who resurrected Jesus.~~

That’s an important distinction, here’s why.

Saying “**He is risen**” implies that Jesus came back to life on His own.

*Keep in mind that Jesus is the human sacrifice for human sin.
Scripture doesn’t say that.*

As the Son of Man

Jesus did not singlehandedly defeat the grim reaper and walk out of the tomb.

Instead, Scripture states that God Himself raised Jesus from the dead.


Wait, isn’t Jesus God? Yes, stay with me and let’s touch on theology for a moment.
Also

The NT teaches that Jesus was raised by the power of both the Father (Rom. 6:4; Gal. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:3) and the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11).

Having different Scripture verses attribute the Resurrection to the different members of the Trinity is not a contradiction.

Instead, it affirms the unity of God within the Trinity.

The Trinity is a mystery, but let's try to define it, *And understand the relationship.*

Trinity  ~~The eternal triune~~ God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with three distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

All that to say this... each member of the Trinity participated in the Resurrection as they did in creation (Gen. 1:1-3; John 1:1-3).

How cool is that?



Now, Mark confirms that no one was allowed to see the Resurrection itself—just as human eyes could not see the wrath of God on Jesus. *@ Golgotha.*

Mark also does not bother answering questions for the skeptics.

When was He raised? How was He raised? In what form was He raised?

Where's the evidence?

The evidence comes in two parts very quickly

 **Mark 16:6**— ...He has risen! He is not here.  the place where they put him.

The angel is equally clear where Jesus' dead body lay. *used to*

First, it's the empty tomb that proclaims the evidence of the Resurrection.

The second part of the evidence are the Disciples themselves.

They are the witnesses to the empty tomb.

In fact, Luke Gospel asks this question?

Luke 24:5—“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

Ouch! An angel with an attitude...

A little jab reminding these ladies that they should have come to the tomb not with oils but rather anticipation regarding the Resurrection.

The angel is the one who connects the dots between the Resurrection and the empty tomb for the women.

And now, the angel provides precise instructions.

Mark 16:7— *But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.’ ”*

“**And Peter**” —The angel wants Peter to know that he is still a disciple of Jesus.

Why would Peter no longer be a Disciple? *How did he get kicked out of the club?*

The last time we heard from Peter is when he denied Jesus three times.

As you can imagine ...

Peter is still living in agony over that mistake.

Verse seven is a public reinstatement of Peter into his apostolic office.

Pause....I pray that’s encouraging to you this morning. *Here’s why ...*

KEYPOINT 3:

Jesus does not give up on His disciples, no matter how great our failure.

Some people live their lives out of the shame of their worst mistake.

It's a pretty good bet that that's where Peter is at this moment.

Peter's thinking "would'a, could'a, should'a"

So the angel sends a message to remind Peter of Jesus' words.

Jesus gives him his identity

Matthew 16:18—And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

In other words, Pete, get ready, you're just now getting started.

Mark 16:7— 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see him there just as he told you.' "

Why would Jesus tell everyone to meet Him in Galilee?

Why not Jerusalem[?]—because it's fruitless and now doomed.

Jerusalem is not the center of God's movement—

Jesus is sending everyone back home.

Galilee was the place where Jesus called the Disciples.

Galilee was where they learned about faith and compassion.

Galilee is where they saw Jesus' healing power and authority over the demonic.

In Galilee, they can regroup and begin the next chapter of discipleship.

Mark 16:8— They went out and ran from the tomb, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

These women are terrified.

They are so frightened that their bodies are physically shaking—trembling—*tromos*—*great fear*.

And at the same time, Mark says they are also astonished—meaning that there is reverential awe at the resurrection message.

Mark 16:8— And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

Gentlemen, make a note; these women had nothing to say!!!

Not one word!
Now, how is THAT possible?

We've got another miracle in the resurrection story!

KEYPOINT 4:

Their emotions cause them to run away from both the angel and his instructions.

In all seriousness, their terror forces a complete silence on the women, and they say nothing to anyone.

And, here's the crazy thing—^{this}verse eight is how the Gospel of Mark ends.

Mark purposely ends his gospel with the women disciples being afraid and running away.

You say, wait, *I've got more in my Bible—verses 9-20.*

And to find out why you have more, you'll have to sign up for the Fundamentals of the Faith Discipleship class on Wednesday nights!.

It's there where you'll learn an introduction to the Bible itself and how it was composed!

Mark's ending is unlike any other work in ancient writing.

Somebody said this... "*Mark's conclusion is either intolerably clumsy; or it is incredibly subtle.*"

I would argue that it is incredibly subtle and incredibly compelling.

There is no doubt of Mark being intentional.

Mark provides a brilliant final point. to his Gospel.

Throughout these 78 sermons over the past 20 months, we have seen Mark spotlight the Disciples' failures. over & over
highlight

Here he does it again.

Look at verse eight again; notice how Mark goes out of his way to include seven negative responses on the women's part.

Mark 16:8—They **went out** and **ran** from the tomb, because **trembling** and **astonishment overwhelmed** them. And they **said nothing** to anyone, since they were **afraid**.

Mark intentionally does not sugarcoat the actions of any of the disciples.

Time and time again, Mark doesn't focus on their faith, but fear.

Brings us to our next key point.

KEYPOINT 5:

The disciples' failure can only be overcome by the presence of the risen Lord.

When Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them what had happened, the men refused to believe.

So nobody headed toward Galilee.

When was it—at what moment—did all the disciples start to believe? *in the Resurrection*

It's when Jesus repeatedly appeared to them ^{*in person*} ~~in~~ Jerusalem (cf. Luke 24:13–32; John 20:19–31). *AT*

What's all this mean for us today?

PREACH

Well, I pray that you find the ending of Mark's Gospel as encouraging as I do.

Here's why...

KEYPOINT 6:

Failures in life do not *disqualify you from discipleship.*

Mark's Gospel repeatedly shows us
God completes his plans for the Church despite human failure.

In other words, God has a plan, which does include you—and here's the best part...you don't have the power to mess it up. *😊*

God is the ultimate chess player.

Mark's Gospel repeatedly teaches us that there is no such thing as a super Christian.

There will be times in your life to where you will be overcome with fear and doubt.

The good news is that since you're a disciple of Jesus, you don't have to stay there.

You would think that the resurrection would turn the Disciples from flawed fearful humans into spiritual giants overnight.

But it doesn't happen.

KEYPOINT 7:

Discipleship consists of following Jesus imperfectly.

Discipleship is not about following Jesus perfectly, but ^{consistently} consistency and increasingly— slowly over time.

Discipleship is about risk and being courageous. *It involves doing something different.*

KEYPOINT 8:

Christians still must live with both certainty and ambiguity.

What do I mean?

We are to walk by faith, not by sight.

We can be certain that God will provide for us, but we're not sure how.

We can be sure that God is a Promise-maker, but we're not exactly sure how He is a promise-keeper. *we don't know how He's going to get us out of this mess.*

In a world that demands the dramatic, Mark's Gospel seems to be anti-climatic. *At the end*

Why?

Drama involves an overload of your emotions.

Yet, The Gospels all point to one thing—belief.

Do you believe the Word of God?

Are you able to understand God's Word without all the hype?

Is God's ^{unfailing} infallible and inerrant Word enough?

Or do you need smoke, lights, loud music ^{with} some guy who calls himself a preacher giving a Ted Talk with a verse attached to it?

Dear friends that's all nonsense.

It's called manipulation— in an effort to get your money.

The question remains: *Do you believe the Gospel?*

And will you believe it when all hell breaks loose in your life?

Will you keep believing?

Or will you walk away because life has thrown you a curveball, and you'd rather run away from Jesus instead of running to Him?

Mark's Gospel teaches how weak, fallible, and proud we are as human beings.

It teaches us how to live with failure.

The Gospel is not about us. — It's About Jesus.
Quit trying to find yourself in the narrative.

The gospel is about the power of God.

And because the Gospel is about the power of God—it's God who overcomes human dysfunction.

KEYPOINT 9:
Your walk with God is not based on human performance. It's based on love.

the Resurrection

God's promise of salvation is intertwined with human weakness.

In other words, God overrules your failures and acts of temporary disobedience.

Now, you still have to repent? MAKE things right w/ the people that you've hurt since Against. But...

KEYPOINT 10:
Your failures are not fatal.

The cross has cleared your record of being an awful son or daughter to your parents.

Jesus' blood has removed the anger, the lust, your pride, and the gossip from your life.

IT TAKES TIME TO REALIZE : TO LIVE ALL THAT OUT.

Your sins were once as red as scarlet but now are white as snow.

God doesn't see you the way you see you.

Dear friends, you are not an alcoholic. You're a child of God who struggles with drinking.

You're not an addict. You're a child of God who struggles with habitual sin.

You're not a porn freak. You're a child of God who still struggles with lust.

And I could go on and on.

Because we're all on an equal playing field.

We were all blind at one time, but now we can see.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that we are not who we used to be.

Are we perfect? Nope.

Perfection
That will never happen—so give the rest of us a break and quit trying.

~~There are no model disciples.~~

~~There is only one resurrected Jesus, who is our disciple-maker.~~

~~THIS IS ALL THE IMPACT OF THE RESURRECTION.~~

Lastly, We as the Church have a job to do.

Yes!
+
LOLO

Mark points that out.

Mark ends his gospel with unfinished business. — So obvious

~~What's unfinished?~~

The preaching of the gospel to the ends of the earth—for you and me—it's to share Jesus with the Verde Valley.

- ① It's serious business as well. Souls are AT STAKE.
- ② Mark's ending to his Gospel raises the question, *Who will tell this story?*
- ③ Jesus is coming back very soon.
- ④ We have a job to do before the rapture.

PRAYER

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