

JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark
PART 73 - 16:1-8

Faithful Even When Hope Seems Lost

READ: Mark 16:1–2 and John 19:38–42
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1) Why did Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome purchase spices and return to Jesus' tomb? What does their decision reveal about their love and devotion to Jesus?
2) The women had witnessed Jesus' death and burial, yet they continued serving Him even when they believed all hope was lost. What can we learn from their example about remaining faithful to Jesus during seasons of grief, disappointment, or uncertainty?
3) Greg said, "They still love Jesus! They're still devoted to Jesus! But they have absolutely NO EXPECTATION that He's about to rise from the dead!" How can we sometimes demonstrate genuine faith and devotion to Jesus while still struggling to believe that He can do what He has promised?
4) Can you share a time when you continued trusting or serving God even though you couldn't see how your circumstances could possibly improve? What did that experience teach you?

When God Has Already Moved the Stone

READ: Mark 16:3–4 and Matthew 28:1–4
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1) What obstacle were the women worried about as they approached the tomb? Why was their concern completely understandable?
2) When the women arrived, they discovered that the enormous stone had already been rolled away. What does this teach us about God's ability to accomplish things that seem impossible from our perspective?
3) Greg said, "They've got a plan for what they're going to do WHEN they get inside the tomb. They apparently haven't figured out HOW they're going to get inside the tomb!" Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation, determined to move forward but uncertain how to overcome the obstacles ahead? How did you respond?
4) Is there a "stone" in your life right now, an obstacle, challenge, or situation that seems too big for you to handle? How can you trust God with that situation while still taking the steps of faith and obedience available to you?

He Has Risen! And Peter Has Not Been Forgotten!

READ: Mark 16:5–7 and Mark 14:27–31
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1) What did the women discover when they entered the tomb, and what extraordinary announcement did the angel make? Why is the resurrection of Jesus so central to everything Christians believe?
2) The angel specifically instructed the women to tell "His disciples and Peter." Why do you think Peter was singled out? What does this reveal about the grace and compassion of Jesus toward those who have failed Him?
3) Greg said, "Peter, you're still included. You haven't been forgotten!" Why is it sometimes difficult to believe that Jesus still loves us and wants to use us after we've disappointed Him or failed to live up to our own promises?
4) Jesus had already promised His disciples that He would rise again and meet them in Galilee (Mark 14:28). How does remembering God's promises help us when our present circumstances seem to contradict everything we hoped or believed?

Your Story Isn't Over!

READ: Mark 16:8 and 1 Peter 1:3–9
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1) Why do you think the women initially responded to the angel's announcement with trembling, astonishment, and fear rather than immediate celebration? What does their reaction reveal about how overwhelming the resurrection must have been?

2) Mark 16:8 ends with frightened women fleeing an empty tomb. How does knowing what happened afterward, as recorded in the other Gospels, change the way we understand that moment?
3) Greg said, "Your worst failure does not have to be the final chapter of your story! Because the risen Jesus is still in the business of forgiving sinners, restoring broken lives, and giving second chances!" How does the resurrection give us hope that our past mistakes, present struggles, and even death itself do not have the final word?
4) Is there an area of your life where you've begun to believe that nothing will ever change, that your best days are behind you, or that God is finished with you? What would it look like to face that situation with renewed confidence in the risen Jesus?