

JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark
PART 74 - Four Witnesses One Resurrection

The Son Didn't Necessarily Rise at Sunrise!

READ: Mark 16:1–8 AND 1 Corinthians 15:20–23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) When the women arrived at Jesus' tomb, the stone had already been rolled away and Jesus was already risen! Why do you think it's important to distinguish between the time the women discovered the Resurrection and the time Jesus actually rose?

2) Paul calls Jesus the "firstfruits of those who are asleep." What does that expression mean, and what does it promise about the future resurrection of everyone who belongs to Christ?

3) Greg said, "Jesus is the FIRSTFRUITS! And WE are the harvest still to come!" How does knowing that Jesus' Resurrection is only the beginning of God's great resurrection harvest change the way you think about death and eternity?

4) Greg explored the possibility that Jesus rose as the first barley sheaf was being harvested for the Feast of Firstfruits. Although Scripture doesn't tell us the exact time Jesus rose, what do you find meaningful about the connection between the ancient feast and Jesus' Resurrection?

Different Witnesses, Different Details!

READ: Matthew 28:1–8 AND Luke 24:1–12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Compare Matthew's and Luke's accounts of the women arriving at the tomb. What details do both writers include, and what additional details does each writer provide?

2) Matthew describes an angel who speaks to the women, while Luke describes two men in dazzling clothing. Why doesn't mentioning one heavenly messenger necessarily mean there was only one present?

3) Greg said, "These four accounts CAN fit together without necessarily contradicting one another!" What is the difference between two accounts providing different details and two accounts actually contradicting each other?

4) The women came to the tomb expecting death, but encountered the announcement of LIFE! Have you ever faced a situation where you were so convinced of a particular outcome that you struggled to recognize what God was actually doing?

When Jesus Called Her Name!

READ: John 20:1–18 AND Matthew 28:9–10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) Mary Magdalene initially believed someone had stolen Jesus' body. Even after seeing the empty tomb and speaking with angels, she still didn't understand what had happened. What does her response teach us about the humanity of these first witnesses?

2) Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener until He spoke one word: "Mary!" Why do you think hearing Jesus call her by name made such a profound difference? How does this scene connect with Jesus' teaching in John 10:3–4 about His sheep recognizing His voice?

3) Greg said, "She thought she'd lost Him forever! And now she's holding Him in her arms!" What does Mary's encounter with the risen Jesus reveal about His personal love for His followers, especially in moments of grief and despair?

4) Jesus sent Mary to tell the disciples what she had witnessed, and the other women were also commissioned to carry the news. Why is it significant that Jesus entrusted these women with the first announcements of His Resurrection? What responsibility do we have to share what Jesus has done in our lives?

The Tomb Was Empty! Death Was Defeated!

READ: Luke 24:13–35 AND 1 Corinthians 15:12–22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1) The four Gospel writers describe the Resurrection from different perspectives, emphasizing different details. Why might their accounts be more meaningful together than any one account would be by itself?

2) Greg said, "The tomb was EMPTY! Jesus was ALIVE! Death had been DEFEATED! And NOTHING would ever be the same again!" What changed because Jesus rose from the dead? What should be different in our own lives because He is alive?

3) Paul argues in 1 Corinthians 15 that if Christ has not been raised, our faith is worthless. Why is the Resurrection absolutely essential to Christianity rather than simply one important miracle among many?

4) Imagine someone asks you, "Why does it matter whether Jesus really rose from the dead?" Based on what we've studied throughout Mark and especially in these resurrection accounts, how would you answer them?