

## **Mark 16: 1-10**

### **The Story That Ends with a Beginning**

We have walked a long road through the Gospel of Mark. We have watched Jesus heal the sick, silence storms, forgive sins, confront demons, and reveal the kingdom of God. We have seen His compassion, His courage, and His cross. Through it all, Mark has been asking one question: Who is Jesus, and why did He come?

The answer reaches its climax here - not on the cross, but at the tomb. If Mark's Gospel ended with death, then everything before it would collapse into tragedy. But the tomb does not stay closed. The cross was the payment, but the resurrection is the receipt. If He has not risen, then all of Christianity is a hollow dream. But if He has, then everything changes.

### **The Morning of Fear**

It was early, very early, the first day of the week. Three women Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome walked toward the tomb carrying spices. They came not expecting life but to serve the dead. They had watched Him die. They had seen Him buried. They came out of love, but not faith.

Their question was practical: "Who will roll away the stone for us?" They were worried about logistics, not resurrection. Yet when they arrived, the stone was already rolled away. The power of God had already gone before them.

Mark tells us that when they entered, they saw a young man clothed in white an angel. And his words pierced through human history: "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He is not here."

Notice the order of that sentence. The angel first names the reality of His death 'crucified'. Then he announces the reality of His victory 'raised.' The same Jesus who truly died has truly risen. And the words that follow, "He is not here," are not a statement of absence but of glory. The tomb has become a pulpit. It preaches that death is no longer final, sin no longer reigns, and despair no longer speaks last.

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From the first page of Scripture, creation begins in darkness. “And there was evening, and there was morning, the first day.” Now, in another garden, on another morning, God speaks again. The first creation began with “Let there be light.” The new creation begins with “He is risen.” The resurrection is Genesis 1 repeated with greater glory.

The tomb becomes a new Eden. The curse that entered through a tree has now been broken through another tree, the cross. The Son of God, buried in the ground like the seed of new life, bursts forth as the first fruits of the new humanity. What was planted in weakness is raised in power.

Mark gives no description of how the resurrection happened. No one saw it. No one could. It belongs to the mysterious act of God alone. The New Testament is clear: Jesus did not raise Himself by His own human strength. He was raised. The Father, through the power of the Spirit, called Him forth from the grave.

This distinction matters deeply. The resurrection is not Jesus escaping death; it is the Father’s verdict upon His Son. It is heaven’s declaration that the atonement has been accepted. On the cross, Jesus bore sin (He became sin, but He never became a sinner). In the tomb, He lay under its curse. But when the Father raised Him, He was declaring to the universe: It is finished indeed.

Romans 4:25 says, “He was delivered up for our sins and raised for our justification.” The empty tomb is not just proof that Jesus lives; it is proof that redemption is complete.

That is why R.C. Sproul said that the empty tomb is the result of the resurrection, not the cause. We do not infer life from a vacant grave; we see an empty grave because life has already conquered it. God Himself reached into the silence of death and brought His Son out.

### **The Reality of History**

Romans were professional executioners. They verified His death before the body was taken down. He was pierced through with a spear; He was wrapped, sealed, and guarded.

Some people claim the disciples stole the body. If they invented a lie, it gained them nothing but imprisonment, exile, and death. Every one of them suffered for the message that Jesus had risen. People may die for what they believe is true, but never for what they know is false.

Yet Scripture records Jesus appearing not only to individuals but to groups, to the Twelve, to women, and to more than five hundred at once. He ate with them, spoke with them, and allowed them to touch Him. This was not vision or imagination. This was resurrection.

And most strikingly, the first witnesses were women. In a culture where women could not testify in court, no one inventing a false story would ever have written that. The only reason to include it is because it was true. The Gospels name them Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome as if to say, “Go ask them yourselves.”

The resurrection is not only a historical fact but a cosmic event. In that moment, the entire structure of creation began to turn. Death was not simply reversed; it was conquered.

From Adam onward, humanity had lived under the reign of sin and death. But now a new humanity has begun. Paul calls Jesus the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” The risen Christ is the first blossom of new creation.

The curse that entered through a tree has now been broken by another tree, the cross. And the One who was laid in the earth like a seed has burst forth into life that can never die.

This is why Sunday became the Christian Sabbath. The people of God no longer gather on the seventh day, marking the end of creation, but on the first day, marking the dawn of new creation. Every Sunday is resurrection day

### **The Gifts of the Resurrection**

Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 draws out five great consequences of Christ’s resurrection. If He had not been raised, our faith would be empty, our sins unforgiven, our preaching meaningless, our dead lost, and our hope pitiful. But since He has been raised, the opposite is gloriously true.

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First, our faith and preaching are not in vain. The One we follow is alive. The gospel we proclaim rests not on theory but on victory.

Second, the apostles are not false witnesses. Their word is trustworthy because their testimony was sealed with their blood.

Third, we are not still in our sins. The resurrection is God's declaration that the cross has accomplished redemption. There is no sin left unpaid, no guilt left uncovered.

Fourth, the dead in Christ have not perished. The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our own. Because He lives, those who have fallen asleep in Him will rise again.

And fifth, we are not to be pitied but envied. The world may look at Christians as fools clinging to hope, but the truth is reversed. We alone have a hope that death cannot destroy.

J.C. Ryle said, "The resurrection is the headstone of redemption." It is the final proof that Jesus has conquered sin, Satan, and death. The cross was the battle, but the resurrection is the crown.

### **The Living Hope**

The resurrection means that every promise of God now stands confirmed. The One who promised to be with us, to forgive us, to raise us, to make all things new, lives to keep those promises.

Because He lives, our sins are forgiven. Because He lives, our faith has meaning. Because He lives, death is defeated. Because He lives, our suffering will one day turn to glory.

The resurrection is not just a doctrine to be believed; it is a power to be experienced. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now lives in His people. That Spirit empowers us to forgive, to endure, to serve, to hope.

And it is this risen Christ who still meets His disciples in Galilee, in the places of ordinary life. He still goes ahead of us. He still calls us to follow Him, not to a tomb, but to a living kingdom.

**Conclusion: The Gospel That Never Ends**

Mark began his Gospel with these words: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The angel’s message is still the same today: “He is not here. He has been raised.” That is not only an announcement to hear but a reality to live.

The cross tells us Jesus loves us more than we can imagine. The resurrection tells us His love is stronger than death.

So, we stand with the women at the tomb, trembling, amazed, and full of wonder. The tomb has spoken, and it says: sin forgiven, death defeated, hope alive.

He is not here. He is risen. And because He lives, we live too. Amen!