

Refuge City Church — November 15, 2020
“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 16:1-11)

Introduction

- **LAST WEEK** = Jesus’ bearing the full weight of man’s sin and death on the cross provides us forgiveness and access in to the very presence of God.
- **TODAY** = The **Power** of his resurrection and the **Promise** of eternal life.
- **Matthew 27:62-66**, “The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.” Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.”

Scripture Reading (Mark 16:1-11)

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. **2** And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3** And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” **4** And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. **5** And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. **6** And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” **8** And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. **9** Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. **10** She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. **11** But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

Verses 1-3

1 When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. **2** And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3** And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”

- The women who served with Jesus in his ministry, were at the cross, and saw where he was buried, are now continuing to serve as they bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus.
 - All gospel accounts: Mary Magdalene, the other Mary, Salome, Joanna, and others.
 - In grief, they still sought to serve. In uncertainty, they still sought to honor their Lord.

- **QUOTE:** “Simon of Cyrene takes up his cross; Joseph takes his body from the cross and buries him; and a group of women go to the tomb to anoint him after his death. These actions are acts of service done for Jesus by people who courageously sacrifice or risk something—money or arrest or reputation—to carry them out.” [David Rhoades]; **Mark 10:45**
 - Are we doing the same today? In our season of uncertainty, when it may seem as if God is silent, are we still seeking to serve Him?
- The expectation was to find Jesus in the tomb with the stone set in front.
 - No mention of possible resurrection. The disciples are not present. Simply caught up in grief.

Verses 4-8

- **[CONTEXT] Matthew 28:2-4**, “And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.”

4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. **5** And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. **6** And he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.” **8** And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- The angel is there to provide testimony to the women what no human eye witnessed.
 - The angel was not sent by God to remove the stone so Jesus could walk out. But merely to open the way so others could see that He is not there!
 - “Silently, invisibly, wonderfully, gloriously” Jesus rose from the dead.
- While the women were in shock, the angel simply reminded them of what Jesus had said He would do; therefore, there is no need to be afraid or perplexed.
 - **Luke 24:6-8**, “He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’ And they remembered his words,”
- It wasn’t simply the spirit of Jesus that had risen. His whole being was up and gone!
 - **Matthew 28:11-15**, “While they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had taken place. And when they had assembled with the elders and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient sum of money to the soldiers and said, “Tell people, ‘His disciples came by night and stole him

away while we were asleep.’ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.” So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story has been spread among the Jews to this day.”

- The chief priests would not have paid off the guards if the body was still in the tomb. They could have rolled the stone back and carried on as if nothing happened.

- **Matthew 28:9**, “And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.”
- **John 20:2, [Mary Magdalene to Peter]** “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”
- **John 20:15, [Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene]** “Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him...”
- **John 20:17**, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father...”

- **The Angelic Testimony**

- **Matthew 28:6**, “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.”
- **Mark 16:6**, “You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him.”
- **Luke 24:5,6**, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

- Hearing vs. Seeing & Experiencing

- **QUOTE:** “One eye-witness is better than twenty ear-witnesses; men will believe what you have seen if they do not believe what you have heard.” [Charles Spurgeon]
- When we **see the place where they laid Him** is now empty, we see that the Father did not forsake Jesus.
- When we **see the place where they laid Him** is now empty, we see that death is conquered.
- **1 John 1:1-3**, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and **testify to it and proclaim to you** the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — that which we have seen and heard we **proclaim also to you**, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

- **The Angelic Commission**

- “Go tell the disciples that he has risen from the dead.”
- **Verse 7:** But go, tell his disciples and Peter.
 - Mark mentions Peter, as he specifically needed affirmation and restoration after Jesus predicted his denial, he cut off the guard’s ear, denies Jesus 3 times, and weeps in shame after connecting eyes with Jesus at his trial.
 - **Mark 14:27-28**, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”
 - **Luke 22:31-32**, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

- Jesus called these men to be His disciples in Galilee. He would now commission them in Galilee to make disciples of others.

Verses 9-11

9 Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

- Jesus begins to appear and provide visual proof of His resurrection.
 - First, He appears to Mary Magdalene... I like to believe that the following picks up where Mark's account leaves off in verse 8 [**“And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”**]
 - **John 20:11-18**, “But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”
 - She heard Him, saw Him, and clung to Him.
 - She then lived out her commission to go and tell others what she had seen and heard.

Response/Conclusion

- What is our response to the resurrection of Jesus?
 1. The resurrection of Jesus provides us what no other religion or its leaders ever declared or can provide.
 - The power and proof of Jesus Christ as the Son of God.
 - **Romans 1:4**, “[He] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,”
 2. The resurrection of Jesus gives the assurance of our own future resurrection to eternal glory!
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:14**, “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

- **I Corinthians 15:54-55**, “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’”
3. The resurrection means that while His earthly ministry was completed, He continues in ministry to this very day!
 - Forgiveness and Salvation can still be obtained and granted freely to those who accept.
 - **Hebrews 7:25**, “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **[completely/all times]** those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”
 4. The resurrection of Jesus proves the Father’s love for us.
 - While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. But to give us a future and a hope, He didn’t remain in the grave and neither will we.
 - He defeated death, so that we too might live and have forever fellowship with Him in glory.