

Share a little about your own journey from observer to believer. How did God pursue you?

As we read beyond the Gospels, we find major milestones of faith that transformed the early believers and still transform us today.

They believed in Jesus and the resurrection.

*9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.  
- Romans 10:9 NIV*

They were transformed by the Holy Spirit.

*8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
" - Acts 1:8 NIV*

They had hope that no matter what, one day they too would be resurrected.

*3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.  
- Revelation 21:3 NIV*

Which of these areas would you say God is growing you in right now?  
We have hope because Christ is Risen, and He will come again!

## WRAP-UP

Easter is an invitation to move beyond simply knowing about Jesus and instead trust Him with your whole life. When fear, doubt, or difficult circumstances make God's promises feel uncertain, we can hold onto faith and surrender control, even when it's hard. Rather than being led by emotions, choose to anchor your confidence in Jesus and let Him redefine your hope. This means stepping out of the observer's role and actively following Him—allowing His resurrection to shape how you live, grow, and share that hope with others.

## MEMORY VERSE

*6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, 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, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "- Mark 16:6-7 NIV*

**Challenge** – This week, find that place where you can meet with Jesus and gaze on your resurrected King.

## Easter- He is Risen! Gospel of Mark Ch. 16 - Week 2

### INTRODUCTION

This week as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we also celebrate the conclusion to our 518 days of study in the Gospel of Mark. In November of 2024 we launched this series in chapter 1 verse 1 *"The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God."* and today we conclude with *"He has risen!... He is going ahead of you...you will see him, just as he told you."* In these final verses we trace the path of the women who were Jesus' faithful followers. Jesus attracted many such unexpected disciples from the shepherds who arrived at His birth in the manger, to the centurion who was the first to acknowledge His deity at His death on the cross. They weren't included in His story because they were trusted and credible witnesses, but because it is true- that's who God was moving through. God desires each and every one of us to join His family of believers and that indeed is good news.

### Ice Breaker

What did you do to celebrate Easter this year?

### Key Passages

*1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, 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, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' " 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

- Mark 16:1-8 NIV

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. An Unexpected Reality

*1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. - Mark 16:1 NIV*

The women had seen what Jesus had done but they had also seen what had

been done to Him. They were not expecting the resurrection when they came to the tomb, even though Jesus had plainly told His disciples on more than one occasion that He would rise on the third day. (Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22).

*Are there any promises you have from God that your current circumstances contradict?*

*2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" - Mark 16:2-3 NIV*

They may have been afraid to hope that a resurrection could happen, or the brutal reality of crucifixion might have overridden their hope. But their love for Jesus compelled them to the tomb to anoint His body that day, despite the very large stone that stood between them and Him.

*Is there something you find hard to hold onto hoping for, that only God can do? Share those things with others and pray for the faith and vision from God to believe that He is able to accomplish the impossible in your life.*

*4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, 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, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" - Mark 16:4-7 NIV*

*5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. - Romans 6:5 NIV*

When they arrived, the women were confronted with the reality of the resurrection, an empty tomb. The angel explained *"He is risen! He is going ahead to Galilee; you will see Him there."* And they were invited to decide: Will you align your life with the reality of King Jesus and The Resurrection?

*It's been said that belief in the Gospel must be more than intellectual assent, it requires our complete confidence in Jesus, not in ourselves. Looking at Romans 6:5, we see we are to be united with Him in death. What are the areas you still need to surrender and "die to" so that your faith and confidence is fully in Jesus and not in yourself?*

When we die to ourselves, we give up what we've been hoping in, and allow Jesus to become that hope.

*Jesus told the women He would meet them in Galilee. Where will you meet with Jesus? Is there something you need to do to reach that place and clearly gaze on the resurrected King?*

*25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. - Matthew 16:25 NIV*

You have to die to yourself and believe in Jesus. The more you surrender the clearer the reality of the resurrection becomes. But just like the women at the tomb, you must decide, are you willing to give up your life to find it?

## 2. Directed by Faith not Feelings

*8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid. - Mark 16:8 NIV*

*3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. - Psalm 56:3 NIV*

*9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. - Luke 24:9-11 NIV*

The angel had told the women not to be afraid or amazed and terrified. But they were anyway. Mark tells us the immediate response of the women – they were full of fear and trembling and bewilderment. Theirs was an understandable reaction to the circumstances. They were driven by their feelings to flee. As a result, they left the tomb and didn't tell anyone.

*It is hard not to be shaped by our feelings, but we don't have to be captive to our them. What does Psalm 56 direct us to do when we are afraid? What other emotions can hinder you from drawing near to Jesus?*

We've been given an advocate, the Holy Spirit, and the "fruit of the Spirit" in us includes self-control (Gal 5:23) And when we trust in God He is able to keep us in perfect peace (Is 26:3) The women didn't remain in a state of fear. Luke picks up the story later and we see that the women did bring the good news to the disciples as the angel had told them to.

## 3. The Journey from Distant Observer to Empowered Disciple

Many of our great heroes of faith started as distant observers, apart from God. Moses, David and Paul all were pursued by God while they weren't aligned with Him and His Kingdom yet. Many churches are populated with people still observing at a distance. But God is relentless in His pursuit.