

Digging Deeper Study

Resurrection and Ascension

Mark 16:1-19

8/24/2025

Mark 16:1-8

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.

1. The Women at the Tomb

The women brought spices to anoint Jesus, but God had already rolled the stone away and changed everything before they arrived.

Question: *What "stones" in your life have you worried about that God has already taken care of? How can remembering this story strengthen your faith when you face obstacles?*

2. "Including Peter"

The angel specifically said, "Go tell his disciples including Peter." Even after his denial, Peter was not left out.

Question: *Why do you think Jesus made a point to include Peter by name? How does this speak to the way God restores us when we feel like we've failed?*

3. From Doubt to Empowerment

The disciples struggled with unbelief at first, yet Jesus entrusted them with the mission to go into all the world.

Question: *How do you relate to the difference between "doubting" and "refusing to believe"? In what ways can God use our doubts to grow us and empower us for His mission?*

Gal. 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

James 1:23-34

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

1. Living Beyond “Existing”

The sermon challenges us not to just “exist” but to truly live through Christ (Galatians 2:20–21).

Question: *What does it look like in your daily life to move beyond just “existing” and step into truly “living” in Christ? Can you share a time when you experienced that difference?*

2. Hearing vs. Doing the Word

James 1:23–24 compares hearing the Word without doing it to forgetting your own reflection.

Question: *In what ways do you struggle with being only a hearer of the Word instead of a doer? What helps you actually live out what you’ve heard?*

3. Identity in Christ

The sermon highlights how culture struggles with identity, but Christ gives us a clear identity as sons and daughters of God.

Question: *How has knowing your identity in Christ shaped the way you see yourself and the world around you? Where do you still wrestle with remembering who you are in Him?*

1. The 120 vs. the 380

Out of the 500 who saw Jesus after His resurrection, only 120 waited in the upper room for the Holy Spirit.

Question: *What do you think kept the 380 from showing up? In what ways do we sometimes make similar excuses today, and how can we cultivate the discipline to “wait on God” instead of being distracted?*

2. The Holy Spirit as Vindicator

The sermon emphasized that the Holy Spirit removes shame and gives boldness, just like He did with Peter at Pentecost.

Question: *Where in your life have you struggled with shame or insecurity about your past? How could allowing the Holy Spirit to be your vindicator give you the confidence to boldly share your story of what Jesus has done?*

3. Seed–Time–Harvest

It was described how spiritual growth takes time like planting a seed before the harvest comes.

Question: *How have you experienced the “seed–time–harvest” process in your walk with God? Where might you be in that process right now—planting, waiting, or seeing growth—and what keeps you faithful during the waiting season?*