



God Saves Me!

Sunday - July 26, 2026

What has God Done for me?

Mark 16:1-8 (ESV)

The Resurrection

16 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.

I wonder what God did because he loves me and wants to be with me?

- The answer is that God has saved us through the work of Jesus.

Missing from 16

- At the end of Mark, Chapter 16, something is missing.
- Your Bible will probably say...*the best and earliest manuscripts of Mark stop at verse 8, but some other later manuscripts do have an ending.*
- The end of Mark's gospel is missing. We don't know what was there. But what we do know, is what is here. When we look at what we do have...we see even more that's missing.
- Anticipation. Condemnation. Termination. All missing.

1. Anticipation.

- There's no hope here. It's not that there's no hope at all, it's that there's no hope to begin with. Read with me Mark 16:1–3 (ESV):

16 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?"

- When they come to the tomb, they're not anticipating anything else but to find a dead Jesus. *There is no hope in Jesus any more.*
- If there is any hope at all in these women, it's that someone will be around to help them move the stone from the entrance to the tomb. It's like they forgot about that. Watch what happens:

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.

- "Alarmed" means they were struck with fear. *On the edge of terrified* would not be incorrect to say.
- The Young man here has to be an angel even though Mark doesn't use the word.
- What we envision after the angel speaks is an instant celebration for these women. But look at what Mark writes: that's not the way it happened. Look at vs 8

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.

- There's no belief here, only panicked bewilderment. Hope is missing.
- What the **missing hope** tells us is **that the story is absolutely true.**
- One of the strongest arguments against Christianity at first was this: *We know that Christianity can't be true because the accounts of the resurrection are based on the testimony of women.*
- But see what this means for us. If someone not named Mark, sometime later, was making up the story of Jesus, saying that he died and that the tomb was empty because he resurrected from the dead, that writer, never, not ever, would have put women in as the first eyewitnesses, or even eyewitnesses at all.

- Doing so would have destroyed the story from the very beginning, and no one would have believed it.
- But for us, it's the strongest possible argument that what we have in front of us is the truth about what really happened.
- The only way that Mark writes that women were the ones to see Jesus in his account, is if it really happened that way.
- **Hope is missing here and it tells us that the resurrection account is true.**

2. Condemnation.

Mark 16:6-7 (ESV)

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."

- Understand what an incredible message of grace this is.
- What kind of message would the disciples, who ran away and ghosted Jesus, expect to get
- Answer: Condemnation. Rebuke. Reproof.
- Look what's missing: **Jesus doesn't condemn.**
- He says, *"I will see you...I'm going ahead of you."* I'm still bringing the kingdom...and you're still a part of that. I want you to be with me.
- That's forgiveness. That's grace. That's the gospel.
- There's a bigger grace here: it's in the word *Peter*. Peter gets singled out. *Go tell the disciples...and Peter*. Why is Peter all by himself?
- It's Peter who has the biggest, most public failing. If the message of the angel was *"Tell the disciples I'll see them all in Galilee"* then most likely, it would have been Peter who would have said, *"That's you guys. Go on. He can't mean me. There's no way that invitation is for me after what I did."*
- But Jesus singles Peter out...*Peter I know what you did. And I have big plans for all my disciples...and that means you too...you jerk.*
- Get that. Hear it. *"You too"* Peter, *"You too"* My forgiveness runs deeper than you know. *"You too"*
- We've all been Peter. But because of how the kingdom of God works, because Jesus paid the price...***You too.***
- The gospel is not that you work hard and God smiles on you. It's that Jesus worked on your behalf and in weakness shed his blood for you on the cross so you can be forgiven.
- No matter what, *"You too."*

3. Termination.

- We could say, the end is missing. Not just of Mark's book, but of Jesus' movement.

Mark 16:6 (ESV)

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.*

- Jesus is missing. He's gone. Jesus' messianic movement is over. Terminated.
- Except...it's not...his thing kept right on going. And it grew beyond anyone's imagination.
- People show up on the other side of Mark 16 and they say, *"We believed in Jesus, then we didn't believe in Jesus...because he died...but now we believe in Jesus again. Not because of what he taught, but because we saw a resurrected Jesus. We saw him alive!"*
- Scripture tells us that he was seen by over 500 people. And the people that went out and shared the message of his resurrection...most of them died for it. They were Terminated.
- They died **not** for what they believed...*people do that all the time*...they died for what they believed **they saw**...a resurrected Savior.
- *Men will give their lives for something they believe to be true; but they will never give their lives for something they know to be false.*
- You don't argue with dead people who have come back to life. And he said to those who saw him: *Go. Go tell the world.* And they did.
- The early message went this way: Jesus was sent by God into the world and lived a perfect life. And he was hung on a cross and killed. His perfection became the only sacrifice that would cover your sin. But it did. He proved that your sin can be wiped away by walking out of the tomb alive.
- And his promise is this: When you trust in his work for you on the cross, God will see you as part of his eternal family, and will remember the sin that separated you from him no more.
- When people heard this, they would ask...*What now?* And these first Christ followers would say, simple:
 - 1) Believe that Jesus is God's son. That he is Lord and Christ come to save you from sin.
 - 2) Repent. Change your life so you're trusting in Jesus and in nothing else.
 - 3) And be baptized. So God can do his work of forgiveness in you, and give you the gift of his Spirit to be with you wherever you go. Always."
- Jesus is missing from Mark 16. But he's not missing at all. He's alive.

The question you need to ask today is this: ***Is this same Jesus missing from my life?***

- You can change that today.

FATHER,

we never have to wonder what you've done for us. You love us so much that you sent your Son so that we might be yours. He has gone ahead of us to heaven...may we meet him there, washed clean and made holy in his name. In the name of the one who is missing from his tomb, the risen Jesus, we pray.

AMEN.