

Connect Discussion Guide 4.4.21 Easter Message | Tyler Myers | Matthew 16

The resurrection of Jesus speaks life into every part of our lives.

Key Scriptures:

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 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. 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." 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.

- Mark 16:1-8

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

- Acts 4:33

They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

- Galatians 1:23-24

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

- Revelation 2:7

And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

- 1 John 2:25

Message Highlights:

- How we hear God's voice plays a key role in what we hear from God.
- No one is more influential in your life than you are because no one talks to you more than you do.
- The Lord longs to walk with us; but we have to allow him to move us toward maturity.
- Our past experiences and relationships often hinder us in listening and understanding the vantage point from which God is trying to lead us into a deeper, more meaningful life.
- We need to consider the areas of life where we are missing the voice of God and learn to listen to His voice.
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ not only renews our life, it also renews the lives of those around us.



Conversation Starter:

• Think through the rhythms of your typical day. What is the first "voice," or message, you typically hear in the morning? The last? Consider all of the different voices/influences you engage with on a daily basis as you ponder this question.

Discuss the Message:

- 1. Read through Mark 16:1-8 again; next, recount the progression of the women's emotions and reactions in this passage. Have you ever experienced similar reactions to hearing the Voice of God so vibrantly in your life?
- 2. Are there any areas in your life where you are missing the Voice of God because of the tone, body language, calluses and/or experiences you have had?
- 3. Paul became a preacher of the faith he once tried to destroy (Galatians 1:23-24). How does Paul's testimony encourage you or incline your ear to the mighty power of the Voice of God?
- 4. How we hear God's voice plays a key role in what we hear from God; how has God spoken to you recently? In what ways are you making space, or do you want to make space, to hear from God?
- 5. Tyler pointed out that no one talks to us more than we talk to ourselves. What have you been saying to yourself lately? About yourself, about God, about life, etc? Are there any thought patterns you need to take captive and trade for God's truth?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the power and the hope of resurrection! Nothing can conquer the power of your love, not even death itself! We rejoice in the empty grave and we honor our Risen King, your Son Jesus the Christ!

As we patiently and expectantly await the hope of our future resurrection, we desire to experience your voice at work in our lives here and now. Help us to discern which voices from our past and our present are competing with your voice. Strengthen us so that we might quiet those voices; so that we might hear from you more clearly.

We ask, by the power of your Spirit, that we would encounter Jesus, our resurrected and Reigning King, every day, and that we might boldly share the hope of resurrection with those around us. Amen.

