

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

55-Alive For Evermore Mark 16:1-13

Mark 16:1-13 *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. 9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.*

We looked last time about Jesus being graveyard dead. Dead as any man who ever lived and died. When we ended the last time He was dead in the tomb, hastily taken care of because the Passover celebration was coming. In fact it began in as little as three hours from the time Christ died.

I borrow the title of this sermon from **Revelation 1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.* This I think is a great summation of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

There are a lot of theories that surround the death of Jesus and equally true for the resurrection. One of the theories is the *fraud theory*. This says that Jesus never came back to life that His body was stolen or that this was all made up for religious propaganda to gain a following and start a new religion.

I- Forgotten Words:

Jesus told them and told them that He would rise from the grave yet they never caught the truth of the words. They were forgotten words. In fact we know that the resurrection was doubted by most. **Matt 27:62-64** records an interesting thing in that Jesus' enemies believed and remembered what He said about He would rise again.

Mat 27:62-64 *Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, 63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. 64 Command therefore that the sepulcher be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.*

What about his friends. Surely they would remember that He said he would rise again, or did they?

Here in our text **Mark 16:1-3** records that the women did not remember.

John 20:13 tell us that Mary Magdalene did not remember. *And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.*

Luke 24:12 and **John 20:9** reveal that Peter and John did not remember. **Luke 24:12** *Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulcher; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.*

Luke 24:9-11 shows that the apostles did not remember. **Luke 24:9-11** *And returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.*

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John 20:24-29 is where we find Thomas did not remember. **John 20:25** *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe*

We might ask how they could not remember what we cannot forget. They were so focused on the life of Christ they failed to see His death was coming. They probably were so overcome with grief and disappointment at their loss they were not remembering clearly. However, they soon came to believe in the risen Savior. In fact the historical eye witness accounts of the resurrection are not less than 17 times recorded in the scriptures. There is more evidence to prove the resurrection that to substantiate most of the wars fought in history. He indeed is alive for evermore.

II- The Discoveries:

The women I am sure were troubled all the time of Passover that Jesus body was given such a hasty burial. They wanted to show their love to Him by taking care of His earthly remains. **Mark 16:1** *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*

We can allow our mind to radiate the story into our soul and put words into the mouth of these women as they approach the tomb. It was just at daybreak in the freshness of the morning when they go to the sepulchre.

We do have a few of the concerns that they had recorded. They wondered who would roll the heavy stone aside so they could anoint the body. **Mark 16:3** *And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?*

Imagine the surprise they had when they rounded the bend of the path leading to the tomb and the stone was not over the opening. The entrance of the tomb stood gaping open as it were a mouth getting ready to shout with joy. **Mark 16:4** *And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.* This was the first of the discoveries.

III- He Is Risen, He is Not Here:

Now do not have to speculate about what first crossed their mind. John in his gospel records the words of Mary Magdalene that she wondered where they put the body. **John 20:13** *And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.*

Mark gives us a very quick account of the resurrection. **Mark 16:5** *And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.*

The women were frightened and the angel assures them there is no need. He is not here because He has risen. They were invited to see the place where the body had lain while dead. We see more details from the other gospels but Mark, in his usual fashion, give the critical detail. He is not here, He is risen, here is the evidence. A simple statement that has a whopper of an impact.

IV- The News:

Beloved, one of the critical elements, in fact the most critical, in the gospel is the good news of the resurrection.

Mark 16:7 *But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.*

The angel tells the women to go tell the disciples. They did not tell anyone until they arrived where the disciples were.

Mark seems next to digress and tell more facts. He talks about the appearance to Mary Magdalene.

Mark 16:9 *Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.*

The unbelief continued. Jesus will appear to multitudes of people in the next little while to show He indeed is alive forever more.