

Marked by Resurrection
Message 5 of 5 in the series: "Marked"

A. On Good Friday, some women who had cared for Jesus during His ministry watched helplessly as He died on the cross and His body was sealed in a tomb nearby. Afterwards, they did what they could to honor Him.

"Some women were there, watching from a distance, including Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James the younger and of Joseph), and Salome. They had been followers of Jesus and had cared for him while he was in Galilee. Many other women who had come with him to Jerusalem were also there. This all happened on Friday, the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath. As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea took a risk and went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. (Joseph was an honored member of the high council, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come.) Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus was already dead, so he called for the Roman officer and asked if he had died yet. The officer confirmed that Jesus was dead, so Pilate told Joseph he could have the body. Joseph bought a long sheet of linen cloth. Then he took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in the cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone in front of the entrance. **Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of Joseph saw where Jesus' body was laid.** Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body." Mark 15:40-16:1 (NLT)

1. These women had no idea how they were going to get into Jesus' tomb, but their love and respect for Jesus led them to try anyway. "Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. On the way they were asking each other, **'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'**" Mark 16:2-3 (NLT) "Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:8a (NIV)
2. God rewards faith and devotion. "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**"
Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

B. When the women arrived at Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning, they were greeted by an angel who told them Jesus had risen from the dead.

"But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. **He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body.** Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, **just as he told you before he died.**' The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened. Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions." Mark 16:4-8a (NLT)

1. The stone sealing Jesus' tomb wasn't rolled away to let Jesus out. It was rolled away to let the women in! "Then the angel spoke to the women. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! **He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.**'" Matthew 28:5-6 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Jesus' resurrected body was NOT weak and limited like His earthly body had been. "That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. **Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them!**" John 20:19a (NLT)

2. Jesus was NOT a victim! The empty tomb proves Jesus conquered death and the grave. "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died but look—I am alive forever and ever! **And I hold the keys of death and the grave.**" Revelation 1:17b-18 (NLT)

C. After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to a number of people.

1. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. "After Jesus rose from the dead early on Sunday morning, the first person who saw him was Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went to the disciples, who were grieving and weeping, and told them what had happened. But when she told them that Jesus was alive and she had seen him, **they didn't believe her.**" Mark 16:9-11 (NLT)

2. Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. "Afterward he appeared in a different form to two of his followers who were walking from Jerusalem into the country. They rushed back to tell the others, but **no one believed them.**" Mark 16:12-13 (NLT)
3. Jesus appeared to the remaining eleven disciples. "Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. **He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief** because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead." Mark 16:14 (NLT)
4. Jesus appeared to Peter, James, Paul, and more than 500 people at one time. "Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. **He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.** Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him." 1 Corinthians 15:3b-8 (NLT)

D. Jesus' resurrection is Good News the whole world needs to hear.

"And then he told them, 'Go into all the world and **preach the Good News to everyone.**'" Mark 16:15 (NLT)
 "Afterward Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the **sacred and unailing message of salvation that gives eternal life.** Amen." Mark 16:8b (NLT)

1. Jesus paid the penalty in full for all our sins on the cross. "For everyone has sinned; **we all fall short** of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For **God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.**" Romans 3:23-25a (NLT)
2. We don't need to be afraid of dying anymore. "**I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.** Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." John 11:25b-26a (NLT) "When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have... It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. **Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies.**"
1 Corinthians 15:36b-38a & 42-44a (NLT)
3. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in our hearts and enables us to live new lives. "I also pray that you will understand the **incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him.** This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)
4. Salvation is available to anyone who believes. "**Anyone who believes** and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned." Mark 16:16 (NLT) "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIV)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Read Mark 15:40-16:3 & 1 Corinthians 13:8. Why did some of the women involved in Jesus' ministry show up at His tomb early Easter Sunday morning? How did God reward their devotion? (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Read Mark 16:4-8 & Matthew 28:5-6. Why did an angel roll away the stone sealing Jesus' tomb?
3. What was different about Jesus' resurrection body? (John 20:19)
4. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "I hold the keys of death and the grave"? (Revelation 1:17-18)
5. Read the following accounts of Jesus' appearances to people after he rose from the dead:
 - Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. (Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18)
 - Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. (Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-27)

- Jesus appeared to the remaining eleven disciples. (Mark 16:14, John 20:19-29)
- Jesus appeared to Peter, James, Paul, and more than 500 people at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:3b-8)

Does it matter that he appeared to so many people?

6. Discuss the following reasons Jesus' resurrection is Good News the whole world needs to hear (Mark 16:8 & 15):
 - Jesus paid the penalty in full for all our sins on the cross. (Romans 3:23-25)
 - We don't need to be afraid of dying anymore. (John 11:25b-26, 1 Corinthians 15:36-44)
 - The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in our hearts and enables us to live new lives. (Ephesians 1:19-20)
 - Salvation is available to anyone who believes. (Mark 16:16, John 3:16)
7. When did you come to believe Jesus really rose from the dead? How did that realization change your life?
8. What's the difference between saying "I believe" and really believing? (James 2:19)