

APRIL 12, 2020

“He has risen”

When the sun rose on that third day, there was no reason why Jesus’s friends would be hopeful that anything had changed. Their teacher, leader, and friend ...was gone. Perhaps some of them remembered that foretold his resurrection (Mark 8:31). Surely these were not empty words! In those years together, they had seen Jesus resurrect others, but they must have wondered, “could the Father do it now?”

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- What do you think the women were expecting when they arrived at the tomb? (vs.1-3)
 - A man in white bore witness to the resurrection. How did this heavenly messenger encourage the women? (vs.5-7)
 - Mark says that Jesus appeared to two others walking to the country. This account is found in Luke 24:13-25. With now 3 to 5 witnesses telling the eleven disciples, why were they still reluctant to believe? (vs.11,13)
 - What was Jesus’s command to the disciples when he appeared to them? (v.15)
 - What was the purpose of the signs and miracles? (vs.17-18) Are these signs and miracles for new believers *today*? Why/why not?
 - What happened after Jesus gave them these commands? (vs.19-20)
 - How were the disciples faithful to the Lord’s command? What similar instruction might there be for followers of Jesus Christ today? (v.20)
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- **Apply it.** What does this empty grave mean for you?

The apostle Paul witnessed a resurrected Jesus on his way to persecute Christians (see Acts 9). He would later write to believers in Corinth and meditate further on the importance of a *living* Savior. Read Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 15, then consider these questions:

- How do *you know* that Jesus is alive?
- How does God help his people with this very belief?

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. ²Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” ⁴Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. ⁵Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. ⁷But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” ⁸They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

⁹[Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

¹²After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. ¹³They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

¹⁴Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. ¹⁵And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. ¹⁷These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

¹⁹So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.]

[And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]