



The Gospel of Mark: “Jesus, The Suffering Servant”

Mark 15:42–16:8

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42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. 45 And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. 46 And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Mark 15:42–16:8



1 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.

Mark 15:42–16:8



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.

Quote



“The truth of the resurrection is of supreme and eternal importance. It is the hinge upon which the story of the world pivots.” (Tim Keller)

2 Questions



1. What is the significance of the resurrection?
2. Why believe in the resurrection?

Significance



12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised . . .

Significance



16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:12-19)

Significance



If Christ did not rise from the dead, then . . .

- The entire Christian faith is a lie (14)
- The apostles' teaching is of no value (14)
- We are guilty of blasphemy against God (15)
- No sins have been forgiven (16-17)
- There is no hope of life after death (18)
- We are of all people most to be pitied (19)

Significance



The Resurrection:

- Substantiates Jesus' claim to be God (Romans 1:4)
- Validates Jesus' authority to forgive sins (Romans 4:25)
- Verifies the Old Testament prophecy that David would have a Son who would reign on His throne eternally (Hebrews 1:8)

Significance



- Establishes Jesus Christ as Ruler over all things and Head over the church (Ephesians 1:18-23)
- Gives us confidence in His promise that we too will be raised bodily from the dead (Romans 8:11; John 14:19)
- Enables us to receive power over sin (Romans 6:4)

3 Irrefutable Facts



1. The tomb was empty
2. The disciples saw something
3. The beginning & growth of the church

Two Questions



1. Explanatory Scope – Can the hypothesis explain all the facts?
2. Explanatory Power – Does the hypothesis have to make excuses or assumptions about some of the facts?

Explanatory Scope



- Stolen Body Theory
- Swoon Theory
- Twin Theory (Imposter)
- Vision Theory (Hallucination)
- Spiritual Resurrection
- Physical Bodily Resurrection

Explanatory Power



- Stolen Body Theory: Why would the disciples die for a lie? How would they have overpowered the Roman guards?
- Swoon Theory: How would Jesus have survived the crucifixion, fooled the Roman soldiers & then somehow overpowered them? How would he have recovered so as to appear in a glorified body 3 days later?

Explanatory Power



- Twin Theory (Imposter): What evidence other than speculation supports this argument?
- Vision Theory (Hallucination): How can you explain 500+ people all having the same hallucination?
- Spiritual Resurrection: Then, what happened to the body? What did Thomas touch?
- Physical Bodily Resurrection

Bodily Resurrection (H.E.A.R.T.)



- Honorable Burial: People knew where Jesus was buried.
- Empty Tomb: The body was missing.
- Appearances: He appeared at least 5 times to Peter, the disciples, the 500, James & Paul.

Bodily Resurrection



- Rise of Christianity: The church exploded despite the fact that:
 1. The disciples just witnessed Jesus' crucifixion,
 2. There was no concept of a dead Messiah, &
 3. There was no prior belief in a physical resurrection before the end of days.
- Tradition: The Law was abolished, the sacrificial system ended, & the Sabbath day was changed from Saturday to Sunday.

Next Steps



- Become a member
- Join a community group
- Sign up for Summit or another Equipping class in the spring
- Find a place to serve



Small Group Discussion Questions
(Mark 15:42–16:8)
November 17, 2016

Allow each person in your group to answer one of the following questions:

- *What did you learn this week from the reading or the speaker?*
 - *What are you going to do about it?*
 - *Who are you going to tell?*
1. Review Mark 15:42–16:8. How did you title chapters 15 and 16? What were the contents, key verse(s), and interpretative challenges? Let each person share his chapter title, content, and key verse(s). Then discuss one interpretive challenge from the group to discuss.
 2. According to Romans 5:12-21, why did Jesus have to die? What did His death accomplish? Could God have accomplished the same thing by any other means? Why or why not?
 3. In Mark 16:7, the young man in a white robe says “[G]o, tell his disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee.” Why do you suppose Peter was specifically mentioned by name?
 4. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. Finish this statement: “According to Paul, if the resurrection did not occur, then” Now, in your own words, why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith?
 5. Based on what you heard today, what evidence for the resurrection would you offer to a skeptic?
 6. What have you learned from our time together at Summit? How has this study impacted your faith? Share stories of life change that have occurred this fall in your group.
 7. In what ways can this group best pray for and encourage you in the days ahead?