

ST MARK'S GOSPEL

Resurrection





Early Christian Language

- **Jesus sat at the right hand of God**
- **Jesus ascended into heaven**
- **Jesus was exalted / glorified**
- **The Lamb occupies God's throne**
- **Resurrection??**



Comparing all four

- **Something we rarely do**
- **It does yield surprises**
- **It leads to some important questions**

At the empty tomb				
At the tomb	Mark 16	Matthew 28	Luke 24	John 20
time	very early 1st day of the week sun risen	1st day of the week dawning or drawing on	1st day of the week early dawn	early 1st day of the week still dark
women	Mary Magdalene Mary, mother of James Salome	Mary Magdalene other Mary	Mary Magdalene Mary, mother of James Joanna; others	Mary Magdalene another (?) “we” (v. 2)
purpose	brought spices; came to anoint	came to see the tomb	spices from Friday; took spices along	
visual phenomenon	stone rolled back youth sitting inside, on the right	earthquake angel descended he rolled back the stone he sat on it (outside)	stone rolled back two men standing (inside) angels	stone rolled away; (later) two angels sitting inside
conversation	Youth said: not to fear; Jesus is risen; tell disciples he is going to Galilee	Angel said: Jesus is risen; tell disciples he is going to Galilee	Men asked question: Why seek living among the dead; Recalled prophecy made in Galilee	(later) angels asked Why do you weep? she thought the body was stolen
Reaction of the women	fled trembling told no one	went away quickly with fear and great joy to tell the disciples	returned; told the eleven and all the rest	went and told Peter and the other disciple

What do we learn?

- **Early morning**
- **Women**
- **Tomb**
- **Messengers of some kind**
- **A proclamation**
- **A message or reassurance or task**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and 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** They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. **5** As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

6 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16:1-8

- Did Mark originally end at v.8?
- What about the other three endings?
- What does it mean to end with the puzzling v.8?

Mark 16:1-8

- **Mark 16:1** When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
- Could be Saturday evening or more likely Sunday morning. On the Sabbath no work of any kind was permitted. With one exception, the names are a surprise. Clearly, they were expecting a corpse, in spite of the Passion Predictions.

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

- **The first day of the week became the Christian “Sabbath”. It was observed publicly only from the time of Constantine.**
- **Compare: Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Rev 1:10.**
- **After the Passion, light again - yet the women are in mourning.**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:3 They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

- **In Mark—unlike in Matthew—the tomb is not sealed or guarded. It seems a bit late to thinking about so practical an issue. However, it does set up the surprise to come in the very next verse.**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

- **Anablepō means to look up and to recover sight (8:24; 10:51-52). There was a good deal of “blindness” in the earlier stories and here the light of the resurrection removes the blindness of faith.**
- **NB No attempt to describe - although Matthew comes near!**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

- **As we saw, the figures vary a bit. We are meant to think of a heavenly figure. White is the colour of the resurrection.**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:6 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

- **The reassurance is typical of “epiphanies” or visions. “Who was crucified” might be better: who is the one who was crucified.**
- **Has been raised (v. accurate): i.e. before we notice that the tomb is empty. Divine passive.**
- **Not here: and so Mark has no stories of appearances.**
- **Notice “you”.**

Mark 16:1-8

Mark 16:8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- **The original “ending” which is not really an ending. Mark knows the women eventually bore witness...otherwise! Even the women fail in this Gospel.**
- **Also ironic: before the disciples were commanded to be silent; commanded to speak, they remain silent!**
- **The only constant witness present at everything and “present” even when the women have fled is...the reader!**
- **“To be continued” is the message!**

- **Jesus will go before them**
- **But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” (Mark 14:28)**
- **The disciples will learn service**
- **He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” (Mark 9:35)**
- **But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, (Mark 10:43)**
- **They will learn martyrdom**
- **They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; (Mark 10:39)**
- **They will eventually bear witness**
- **“As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. (Mark 13:9)**
- **When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (Mark 13:11)**
- **The Good News will be proclaimed to the world**
- **And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. (Mark 13:10)**







Conversation

