

The Willing and Worthy King

Mark 16:1-8

MPS The willing and worthy King laid down His life so that you, by faith in Him, could be raised up with Him to new life.

OBJ Every person should respond to Jesus in faith as our willing and worthy King because of three truths.

READ Mark 16:1-8

*When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. 5And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6And 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. 7But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." 8And 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. **Mark 16:1-8***

INTRO Mark's gospel account is distinguished by his short, power-punchy style with which he writes. Writing to a predominantly Roman audience, the super-power that ruled the world in the First Century and celebrated its power and might, he reveals Jesus as the model of ultimate power on earth by contrast against the Roman mindset. Mark writes, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." ^{Mark 10:45} Mark exalts Jesus as the Christ by contrasting His divine power against the great power structures of the world. **Mark captures Jesus' true power on earth not by demonstrated feats of great strength but by great demonstration of deep humility.**

TRANS When we come to Mark 16, we reach the apex of Mark's exaltation of Jesus Christ as the Risen Christ of God, the ultimate demonstration of power and authority on earth and in heaven!

When God introduces His glorified Messiah, the risen Christ of God, to the world, He doesn't use a big stage, arena or colosseum with bright lights, sound machine and innumerable crowds. He begins with three women who, in mourning, bring spices to the tomb to treat the body for death and decay one more time. **Against the backdrop of darkest realities, God breaks forth in brilliant display of glorious light with victory over death and hope for life.**

The three ladies go to the tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint the body. They are concerned and discussing how they will gain access to the tomb because it is covered by a heavy stone. No sooner than they ask the question, it is answered for them. They look up to find that the very large stone has been rolled back. They enter the tomb to find a young man sitting on the right side and dressed in a white robe. Understandably, they were alarmed. **After all, who hangs out in a tomb?!**

The young man says, "Do not be alarmed." Easier said than done as they've just seen something that completely defies human understanding and ability. This kind of stuff has a tendency to strike paralyzing fear in our hearts!

The young man tells them that the Jesus they are seeking, that was crucified, He has risen, He is not in the tomb. He refers to the place where Jesus was laid to show them that He is not there, but now gone. Jesus, the One whose body the ladies came to anoint with spices for burial, who died on the cross three days prior and was buried in this tomb, is not here. **Jesus is risen.**

Be careful not to pass quickly by this simple sentence, "He has risen; he is not here."

ILLUS There are "tricks" and "sight of hand" that wow the eyes and confound the mind, that seem to defy the natural laws of the physical universe. We've all been "wowed" by incredible feats of human strength, power, ingenuity and discovery. But nothing compares to the gravity and potency of this statement. This is not slight-of-hand, trickery, or manipulating laws of the physical universe. This is like nothing else ever seen or experienced.



Against the backdrop of the world's greatest superpower, Mark proclaims a power that is other-worldly, defying the logic of the world's comprehension of power. Mark declares the One who willingly laid down His life to death and rose again to new life. Everyone hears of this power and authority and asks, "How did He do that?"

Such a simple statement and gesture with such profound impact to introduce the one, unique event of human history. This was no feat of superhuman strength, wisdom or power, but something far superior to all of these. He was not in the tomb and his body had not just been moved. **Jesus was resurrected to new life; He is risen.**

Listen to the Apostles tell what occurred when God the Father raised Jesus up.

WHAT: Peter states, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses." **Acts 2:32**

HOW: Paul says, "he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." **1 Corinthians 15:4**

WHY: Paul says, "who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification." **Romans 4:25**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was the exercise of divine power and heavenly authority over Satan, sin and all its curse. God sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay our ransom for sin and rescue us from sin's kingdom of darkness. Jesus was laid in the tomb to show that all sin leads to death, and that sin's "trophy" is the grave. God raised Jesus from the dead to show that His wrath toward sin was satisfied and that all who believe in Jesus are justified before Him. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the eternal plan of God to conquer sin, Satan, hell, death and the grave once for all. **Resurrection to new life through Jesus Christ is the only way to overcome death and the grave, Satan, sin and hell.**

TRANS Jesus has no secret to keep. He wants everyone to know WHAT He has done, HOW He did it and WHY He did it.

The young man in the tomb tells that ladies to go tell the other disciples and prepare to meet Jesus. The ladies left in a state of what Mark describes as "trembling fear and astonishment" that had seized them. Their fear left them speechless, but the coming joy at seeing Jesus in His new life would become the message of their life that could not be silenced. **Jesus who died and was raised, will also raise to new life all who believe in Him.**

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you." Romans 8:11

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The first message at the empty tomb is the declaration of the empty tomb, "Do not fear. He is not here. He is risen!" The resurrection of Jesus Christ conquers our fear by destroying the source in which all fear is rooted, Satan, sin and all its curse. Where fear has no object to root itself in, it cannot take root and grow in you. On an Easter like no other, we are reminded that God has already solved our greatest crisis by overcoming death and defeating sin and the grave.

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OBJ Three truths empower a right response of faith to the resurrection of our willing and worthy King Jesus.

1. The resurrection proves that Jesus defeated death, hell and the grave.

Death is just payment for sin. It sources our fear of mortality, that we cannot control all in the life. Hell is our right reward for sin. It sources our fear of our just and right punishment for all our sin and wrongdoing. Grave is the trophy of our death, standing before us to remind us of the reality of sin. It sources our fear of this life's end, and the unknown of "what is next?" **With all these threats against us, what are we to do?** There is nothing we can do. But there is one thing that has already been done for us. **Jesus was raised from the dead to conquer all of these eternal realities of our sin.**

READ 1 Corinthians 15:54-57



When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus is why Christians can face any situation with distinct hope, because He has conquered our ultimate threat of life, our sin. His Kingdom in which we live every day is one of life and peace, not fear and threat nor death and doom. Because we live in His Kingdom, we live distinctly in His rule and reign over our lives at all times. [Death and the grave hold no power or authority over us. We walk in joy and peace because we know the One who rules with resurrecting power!](#)

Jesus' resurrection is a divine promise manifested, a prophesy fulfilled, an historical fact established, and a foundational conclusion of spiritual truth. Because of the resurrection, there is no good Biblical, religious, practical or logical reason NOT to trust in Jesus. [Trusting in Jesus to receive His forgiveness for your sin and His eternal life is your right response!](#)

2. Jesus conquers fear by faith in Him.

The first message to anyone seeking the Lord is "Do not fear". The way fear is conquered in our life is by faith in Jesus. We must trust what He has accomplished for us on the cross. Jesus' death in our place satisfied the wrath of God and justified us before Him. When we place our faith in Jesus, we are no longer "in our sin" but now are found "IN Jesus Christ". [Faith in Jesus conquers fear because we stand before God justified!](#)

ILLUS The day I learned to stop fearing death. At 21 years old, my grandmother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May and died in August. Her death came very fast after diagnosis, but that was the most merciful part of her illness. The cancer held such a ravaging effect on her body that a quick death was more desirable than the suffering she was going through. But even more than that, death was not something she feared. She knew Jesus and longed to be with Him. When the time came for her to pass from this life to the next, fear held no sway over her soul. No, she did not know all that eternity looked or felt like. She did know the One who awaited her there. And that was all she needed to know to be ready to pass from this life into eternity by faith in Jesus and with confidence and comfort from the peace of His presence.

I learned this lesson as I sang at her funeral. My father asked me to sing the hymn, "Because He Lives". I stumbled through the first verse wondering how I would get through the rest. When I reached the chorus and sang the first phrase, the title of the hymn, a light-bulb moment came on in my heart that drove fear from my soul. [For the Christian, death, hell and the grave hold NO threat to create fear because of this one truth, because Jesus lives.](#)

Faith vanquishes fear when we trust to obey the truth of Jesus Christ for our situation or circumstance. Fear vanishes where there is no source for fear to root in. When fear remains, it is because we've only given lip-service to what we say believe but continue to hold some unbelief in our heart. [Fear that rules over us is faithlessness, unbelief personified. When you put your faith in Jesus, he drives fear from you by giving you His new life of love, joy, and peace.](#)

3. Repent of your sin to receive the new life in Jesus Christ.

The young man sent the ladies away to go tell the other disciples that Jesus would meet them. From there, and them, the message of His resurrection would spread across the whole globe and through the ages to give every person who believed new life in Him. That is the same message we preach today that has never failed to fulfill its promise for every person who trusted in Jesus. [Jesus is still sending His disciples today to reveal Himself and send them to tell the world of hope in Him!](#)

Jesus is not simply the answer to hard circumstances or catastrophic situations. He is far more. [Jesus is King of a new Kingdom, who came to lay down His life for you so you could take up His life in Him.](#)

[The willing and worthy King laid down His life so that you, by faith in Him, could be raised up with Him to new life.](#)



CLOSE Have you put your faith in Jesus to receive forgiveness for your sin and live in His Kingdom?

Jesus stands ready to forgive you and give you His eternal life right now. Won't you place your faith in Him right now?!

