

THE END THAT'S A BEGINNING

Mark 15:40-16:8

Jesus really _____.

^{15:40}There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³Joseph 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. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he should have already died. And summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. ⁴⁵And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

Jesus really was _____.

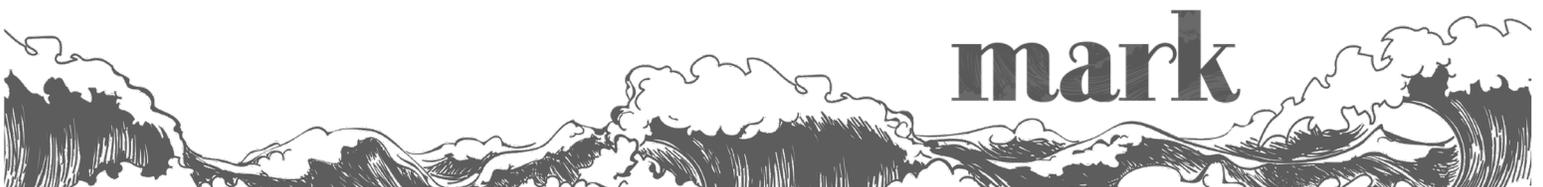
⁴⁶And Joseph bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud and laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of the rock. And he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

Jesus really _____.

^{16:1}When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 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.

Jesus' words really can be _____.

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." 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.



The End That's A Beginning

April 17, 2022



Open: Were you able to do anything the week before Easter that helped you and/or your family prepare well to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection? Share about it with your group.

Read & Discuss: Mark 15:40-47

1. How do you imagine Jesus' followers might have felt as they watched him being crucified? Jesus had previously told his disciples that He would die and then rise again after three days (as in Mark 8:31). Given all the disciples had seen and experienced, why do you think they aren't waiting at the tomb to see Jesus rise from the dead? How do our actions (or lack thereof) demonstrate we struggle to believe similar teachings or promises of Jesus today?
2. According to verses 42-46, how does Joseph demonstrate that he saw Jesus as something more than a failed messiah? Why do Joseph's actions require courage, as verse 43 indicates? When has following Jesus required you to have courage?

Read & Discuss: Mark 16:1-8

3. How does Mark's focus on the women who were present at Jesus' death (Mark 15:40-41, 47) and resurrection (Mark 16:1-8) serve as meaningful to our understanding of Jesus' Gospel? What admirable (godly) character traits can you observe in these women?
4. Verse 3 tells us the women had no predetermined plan for gaining entrance into the tomb. How does that detail recorded by Mark serve to encourage you? Can you share about a time when God was leading you to do something where you weren't sure how it was going to work out? What happened? Are you experiencing anything like that now?
5. Even these three women don't seem to expect a resurrected Jesus at the tomb. Why do we as followers of Jesus often lack faith in Jesus' words? What can or should we do about that?

Apply: As we've gone through our study of Mark's Gospel, how has your understanding of Jesus grown? How can we learn from the disciples' failure to fully believe the words of Jesus?

Pray: Ask God to fill us with faith in Jesus. Pray for your group members by name, asking God to strengthen each person to respond in confident faith to the teachings and promises of Jesus.

Mark 15:40-47

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Mark 16:1-8

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