

The Resurrection, New Creation, and You!

Jerry Cisar — January 1, 2023

Text: Mark 16:1-8

Introduction

I. Subtle but not Missing

- A. Mark's ending may be powerfully subtle, but it is not clumsy or missing.
 - i. Mark knew that someone could see all the evidence and still not have faith sufficient for following Jesus.

There is no way one can arrive at faith by scientific proofs.

LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How might you describe the connection between the Resurrection of Jesus and the new creation?
- What are some of the ways you've attempted to find or strengthen your faith? How have those worked? What is essential for faith?
- How does Mark's bare bones sketch of the Resurrection help us understand our mission to the community in which we live?
- How might we be encouraged in our mission by the fearful, disobedient response of the three women in Mark's ending?
- Have you been guilty of wanting to make faith in Jesus more believable, something less than a miracle? Why won't this work?
- What might the difference be between, as Berry puts it, studying the Resurrection/new creation as a subject we have *and* as a subject we live in? How are we to live in the Resurrection?
- How can we help one another in the walk of faith?

- ii. We might want Mark to say more.

a) 1 Cor. 15:5-8)

B. What does Mark tell us?

- i. He tells us about 3 women going to the tomb to put spices on Jesus' body.
- ii. We are told that as they are discussing how they will get the stone rolled from the front of the tomb, they see that it has already been rolled away.

- iii. We are told they see a messenger, an angel, who does two things:
 - a) Tells them not to be alarmed about the missing body because Jesus has been raised and is no longer there.
 - b) He instructs them: “Go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”
- iv. And that the women were too afraid to obey.

C. Mark isn’t concerned to tell us much... why?

- i. Because faith is a gift from God.
- ii. Mark understood that seeing and believing didn’t necessarily go together. What is essential?
 - a) The empty tomb
 - b) The heavenly explanation
 - c) The personal encounter with a living Savior

Christianity isn’t about a tomb, it’s about the person who revealed Himself through death on the cross, and lives again.

II. What does this mean for our mission?

- A. It ought to be freeing.
- B. You are not ultimately responsible for results.
- C. You’re qualified despite your fear and past disobedience.

III. What does this mean for our own faith?

- A. It means that in the battle for faith, the only path to success is to continue to go meet Jesus.
- B. It means that you can’t reason your way to faith, you must encounter Christ.
- C. It means we must live in the Resurrection.
 - i. Far too often, believers talk about and study the Resurrection of Jesus as a subject they have and even believe in. But we are called to live in the Resurrection.
 - a) Rom. 6:4
 - b) 2 Cor. 5:17