

The Gospel According to Mark

The Tomb Is (still) Empty

Mark 16:1-8



2/12/2023 AM

Introduction: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the bottom line! (I Corinthians 15:17)

How have men tried to explain it away?

- the soldiers who guarded the tomb were bribed to lie (Matthew 27:62-66; 28:11-15)
- the disciples went to the wrong tomb
- Jesus didn't really die
- Jesus wasn't raised bodily
- people imagined what they wanted to be true
- this "wonder story" is the result of legend and Jesus' followers saw a way to turn it to profit
- Jesus had an identical twin brother

I. THE ARRIVAL AT THE EMPTY TOMB (vs. 1-4)

A. The Problem of the Sabbath (vs. 1-2)

"When the Sabbath was over..."

"Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome"

"bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him"

"Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen."

B. The Problem of the Stone (vs. 3-4)

"They were saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?'"

"Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large."

II. THE ASTONISHMENT AT THE SIGHT OF THE EMPTY TOMB (vs. 5-7)

A. The Angel (vs. 5)

"Entering the tomb..."

"they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe"

"and they were amazed"

- "astonished" (*ekplesso*) - 6x (1:22; 6:2; 7:37; 10:26; 11:18; 19:25)
- "afraid" (*phobeo*) - 11x (4:41; 5:15, 33, 36; 6:20, 50; 10:32; 11:18, 32; 12:12; 16:8)

B. The Amazement (vs. 6)

“And he said to them, ‘Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified.’ ”

“He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him.”

C. The Announcement (vs. 7)

“But go, tell His disciples and Peter...”

“He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.” (Mark 14:27-28)

III. THE ANXIETY CAUSED BY THE EMPTY TOMB (vs. 8)

“They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them”

“and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid”

“The ending of Mark...punctures any self-confident superiority the reader might feel, for the ending turns irony back upon the reader. Throughout the story when Jesus commanded people to be quiet they talked anyway. But at the end when the young man commands the women to go tell the message - the crucial message - in an ironic reversal they are silent. The fear of the women dominates the ending of the story. At this point fear forces the reader to face once again the fear in his or her own situation. No matter how much the reader ‘knows’ or ‘sees’, he or she still must make the hard choice in the end - whether to be silent like the women or to proclaim the good news in the face of persecution and possible death.”

Rhoads and Michie, *Mark as Story*, p. 61-62

Conclusion:

- 1) The empty tomb reminds us that Christ died a perfect death.
- 2) The empty tomb reminds us that our sins have been paid for.
- 3) The empty tomb reminds us that Christ is gone but He’s coming back.

Food for Thought:

- 1) What becomes the significance of “the first day of the week”? When and how did that happen?
- 2) What was the women’s response to the appearance of an angel?
- 3) Why does the angel single out Peter to receive a special message of the empty tomb?
- 4) Why would the women be afraid at finding the tomb empty?