

# SERMON | THE RESURRECTION

## SERIES | BOOK OF MARK

STUDY GUIDE | DAVID STOCKTON | EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

### SERMON SUMMARY

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's the most significant moment in all of history and is one of the central truths of the Christian faith. The promise of Easter is the resurrection of all people who have the life of Jesus inside them. That will be the most significant moment of all human history.

Our response to that blessed gift is the most important response we will ever make. How we respond to things in general is important. Our whole life is basically responses, both subconscious and conscious. Our responses to things in life can either be right or wrong. Sometimes our responses are cynical and sometimes they are childlike.

What is the correct response when the gospel is preached? What Mary Magdalene did. Jesus had raised her brother and delivered her from demons, and she gave Him everything when she poured that expensive perfume out on His feet. This was an expression of her sincere and total devotion to the Lord. After Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene and the other women bought spices to anoint Jesus' body. Anointing was an act of love, to offset the stench of the decaying body.

Mary and the other women's sympathetic loyalty was in sharp contrast to the eleven disciples who, except for John, were nowhere to be found. The women coming to anoint Jesus' body on the third day after His burial, showed that they, and the disciples, were not expecting Him to rise from the dead. And then Jesus appeared! And the first person He appeared to was Mary Magdalene.

Our response to our salvation in Christ Jesus, should always be to lay down our lives for the One who gave His life for us (1 John 3:16), to deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24-26). Jesus tells us that what we do for the least of these, we do for Him (Matthew 25:40). Our response to honor the Lord with our lives is always the right choice.

### SCRIPTURE READING

**READ THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 16:1-19 (NIV)**

#### Jesus Has Risen

**16** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

<sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" <sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

<sup>9</sup> When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. <sup>11</sup> When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.

### Jesus Appears to Two Disciples

<sup>12</sup> Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. <sup>13</sup> These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.

### The Great Commission

<sup>14</sup> Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

<sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

### BIBLE PASSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do these passages teach you about the character of God? What do these passages teach you about mankind? What do these passages teach you about how mankind should respond to God? What do these passages teach you about how to respond to others?

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Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

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## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP**

1. What lessons do we learn from the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. What is the correct response when our faith is weak?
3. As followers of Christ, how should we respond to Jesus' command in verse 15?
4. How has the Lord led you to respond differently in daily life throughout your sanctification process?
5. Is there a decision you need to make right now? How can that response lead you toward Christ and not away from Him?

## **PRAYER**

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

