



EASTER
SUNDAY



Mark 16:1-8

1 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. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. 5 Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. 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. 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.'" 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.

- What were Jesus' first words when he came out of the tomb?
 - "Where is everyone?"
- Mark 16:11; 13-14—there was lots of unbelieving
- All of the doubt on Easter #1 should be comforting!

- What might be good about doubt?
 - It keeps us humble
 - It keeps us living by faith
 - It makes us dig further into knowing God
 - It reveals my blindspots

- How can we live with our doubts and faith?
- We have to tweak our definition of faith:
 - Trust and belief that encompasses our minds and beyond
 - Not being controlled by doubt
 - Striving to act consistently on what we can barely see or can't see at all
- It all hinges on the cross and the resurrection of Christ

- God doesn't ask for our understanding—but he does ask for our trust
- To trust in a God who does what we can't understand and who can handle our doubts and use them to build our faith
- The resurrection did both—brought doubt and faith!
- Why trust God with your soul if you can't trust him with life and death?

- The disciples didn't start out with "great faith"; it was a process
- They could face all kinds of suffering because their hope was fixed in the resurrected Christ!
- It's the entry point of faith!

- What causes us to have doubt?
 - The unbelievably hard, the pain, the suffering
- The most unimaginable fears that become real
 - What chance could faith have in those places?

- It starts at the cross
 - Then it radiates out into every other dark day of our lives
- When we trust in the Risen Savior we have a hope for every other dark day!

- Do you have doubts? "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!"
- Easter, the cross, the resurrection is the place
 1. To start—confess, believe, trust Jesus to take away your sins and to rule your life!
 2. To trust and to have faith while you're in the darkness and doubts; trusting God no matter what!



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