

The Resurrection and Commission

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices to anoint Jesus' body. It was early Sunday morning, just as the sun was rising, when they made their way to the tomb. On the way, they asked each other, *"Who will roll the stone away from the entrance?"*

But when they arrived, they saw that the stone—very large (1-2 tons)—had already been rolled aside. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe sitting on the right side. Naturally, they were startled. But he said, *"Don't be afraid. You're looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He's going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you."*

Personal Application:

Sometimes we approach situations already overwhelmed by how "impossible" they look. Like the women on their way to the tomb, we wonder, "Who's going to roll away this obstacle?" But when we trust God and keep moving forward, we often discover that He's already gone ahead of us. He opens doors we couldn't have moved ourselves.

Are there burdens you're carrying this week that God has already taken care of—but you don't know it yet because you're not there yet?

Terrified and amazed, the women fled from the tomb. They didn't say anything to anyone at first—they were afraid.

Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went and told His disciples, who were still mourning and weeping, but they didn't believe her.

Then He appeared in to two disciples walking in the countryside. They told the others, but again, they didn't believe them either.

Personal Application:

This is a recurring pattern: God's work is often met with unbelief—even among His own. Sometimes we hear testimonies of healing, restoration, or salvation, and we quietly question, "Did that really happen?" But what if we let go of our skepticism and learned to trust the work of God—not just in theory but in the lives of real people?

We must also consider: have we been like the disciples, slow to believe the reports of God's power? Jesus rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart. Let that be a warning to us too.

Later, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating. He confronted their unbelief and hard hearts for refusing to believe the eyewitnesses of His resurrection. Then He gave them this commission:

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15–16)

He also said that signs would accompany those who believe: casting out demons, speaking in new tongues, divine protection, and healing the sick.

Personal Application:

This is our commission too. The good news isn't something to keep to ourselves—it's meant to be shared. But the responsibility to save people isn't on our shoulders; it's on God's. Our part is to go, to speak, to serve—and let Him confirm the truth through the power of His Spirit.

Also, this promise of power isn't about putting on a show or manipulating people with signs and wonders. It's about God working through ordinary people to do extraordinary things—things that point to the risen Christ.

Have you limited what God might do through your life? Or have you disqualified yourself based on your past, like Peter? Jesus still says, "Go tell My disciples—and you."

After giving them this command, Jesus was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God.

And they went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked with them and confirmed the word with signs that followed.

Personal Application:

The Gospel ends, not with a quiet conclusion, but with a mission: "Go." Jesus is risen. The tomb is empty. The victory is won—but the story isn't over. You and I are invited to be part of it. As we go into our world—our jobs, homes, neighborhoods—Jesus goes with us. He still works through us to draw people to Himself.

Don't let your past failure(s) disqualify you. Don't let fear stop you. And don't wait until everything is perfect before you speak. Go. The same risen Jesus who sent those early disciples is sending you now.

Final Reflection: Mark ends with action—just as it began. It's a Gospel of movement, calling every believer to respond. So, what will you do with Jesus?

He is not on the cross. He is not in the tomb. He is risen—and calling your name.

Will you go?