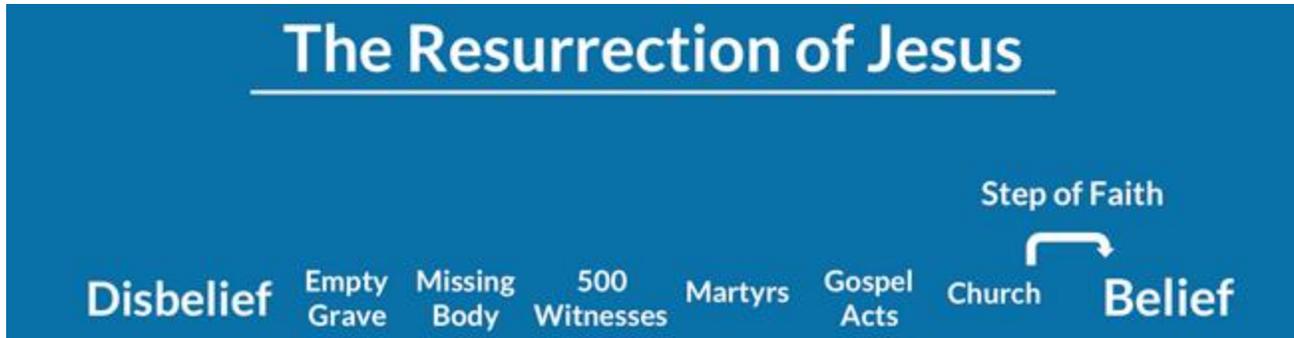


# SPRING QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016

## THEME: FORSAKING ALL I TRUST HIM...THE FAITH STORY UNIT ONE – “TESTS OF FAITH”

### “THE RESURRECTION...FAITH’S GREATEST REVELATION”



### Sunday School Lesson No. IV – March 27, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

**Lesson Text:** Mark 16:1-8

**Required Reading:** Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16; Luke 24:1-53

**Motto Text:** Mark 16:6, “*And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.*”

**Reliable Resources:** What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Master Outlines from “The Open Bible” Thomas Nelson

#### INTRODUCTION

This week’s lesson closes the door on Mark’s faithful account of the life of Jesus Christ. He of course gives us the historical facts that Jesus Christ rose again from the grave. I cannot help but be sensitive right here because of Paul’s lesson in I Corinthians 15:19-20 which says, “*If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*” Beloved, this is the great triumphant proclamation of Jesus that should roll off the lips of every believer, not only at Easter time, but it is the battle cry of our Christian warfare. We fight from a position of victory, and not from a position of doubt! Since this testimony is a part of the Great Commission, let us never become sidetracked by the cheap imitations of carnal Hollywood religions. Let us remember that we are alive today to lift the proclamation that “We serve a risen Saviour...He lives...Christ Jesus lives today!” And how is this proclamation undergirded? Strictly by Faith...Forsaking All I Trust Him. Christ Jesus is alive and well, and we believe it by *FAITH!*

Now let us return and study the historical encounter of the early Christians with the risen Lord and discuss “**The Resurrection... Faith’s Greatest Revelation.**”

#### **Anticipated Power Points:**

- **Death may Blind Faith Temporarily when Resurrection is not Anticipated.** Mark 16:1-3
- **Determination will Encourage the Faithful in Spite of Circumstances.** Mark 16:4-5
- **Disciples of Christ will by the Resurrection Prevail by Faith.** Mark 16:6-8

#### LESSON OUTLINE

##### “The Resurrection...Faith’s Greatest Revelation”

#### **I. Death may Blind Faith Temporarily when Resurrection is not Anticipated. Mark 16:1-3**

##### **A. The anointing. vs. 1**

After the horrible death of Jesus, the gospel writers declare how His body was hurriedly placed in a new tomb without the traditional washings and anointings performed by the Jews. So throughout the special and weekly Sabbath celebrations that week, several named women prepared and waited with tiptoe anticipation to come and perform this labor of love and devotion.

**B. Their arriving. vs. 2**

Now according to verse 2, these women came very early in the morning to fulfill this task. It was probably even before sunrise when they began their journey to the tomb. Their act was done by great love faithfully.

**C. The awakening. vs. 3**

So diligent were they in their quest that they had not considered a large stone that had been placed in the entrance of the tomb. *“Who shall roll us away the stone?”* Beloved, I am moved by the devotion of these sisters, and I pray that more of us would be that devoted in love for the Lord Jesus, to set ourselves in a mind to accomplish a work for His honor and because of our love for Him! But in spite of Jesus’ earlier teachings, they did not anticipate a resurrection! Death dimmed their faith, but they continued the cause.

**II. Determination will Encourage the Faithful in Spite of Circumstances. Mark 16:4-5**

When the loving sisters arrived at the site, they were truly amazed or astonished at the removed stone and the seated angel. Now all this was the work of our loving Lord that would lead to the triumphant proclamation of His resurrection. The sisters only sought to anoint the body of a dead Christ and now, to their utter astonishment, the stone covering the sepulchre is removed and an angel is seated at the door. According to the other gospel writers, there were two angels present, but perhaps Mark’s focus was only on the speaking angel and his revelation of the Good News, Jesus is Risen!

**III. Disciples of Christ will by the Resurrection Prevail by Faith. Mark 16:6-8**

Upon seeing the angel and the open tomb, the women are privileged to hear the greatest message ever heard by the ears of human beings: *“Jesus Christ Is Alive!”* Beloved, after what they had witnessed at Calvary, seeing His torture, mocking, and cruel death, the announcement of the angel would bring several reactions within the faithful sisterhood.

**A. It set their hearts at ease. vs. 6**

*“And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”* No need to fear, doubt or waver. The evidence is before your eyes...look at the empty tomb!

**B. It set their souls on fire. vs. 7-8**

When the soul is set on fire, one has to share the testimony with others! The angel commanded them to deliver the message of Christ’s Resurrection to Peter (who denied Jesus and was their leader) and to the other disciples. These women whose souls were ablaze, now departed and ran to tell the Good News! According to verse 8, it appears that they did not tarry or linger along the way, but went directly to the objective: to deliver to the appointed people **“The Resurrection... Faith’s Greatest Revelation!”**

**CLOSING THOUGHTS**

**The Resurrection was Authenticated by Jesus’ Appearances. Mark 16:9-16**

**A. His appearance to Mary Magdalene. vs. 9-11**

In John 20, we get a close-up view of her encounter. Please read John 20:11-18

**B. His appearance to the men of Emmaus. vs. 12-13**

In Luke 24 you will find the details of this encounter. Please read Luke 24:13-35

**C. His appearance to the eleven. vs. 14**

This appearance is better detailed in Luke 24:36-49 (read). Beloved, in the account of Mary and the men of Emmaus, the disciples appeared to have hearts of unbelief towards their testimony. You might say they wanted to “see for themselves.” But in the account as dictated by Mark in verse 14 and historically recorded by Luke in Chapter 24:36-49, Jesus appears and presents Himself, giving positive proof that He is definitely alive and well! It was from their encounter with Him that the disciples’ minds were opened to remember Jesus’ words of His resurrection in Mark 10:34, *“And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.”* Now they are truly ready to present Jesus’ triumphant proclamation, **“The Resurrection... Faith’s Greatest Revelation.”**

**D. The final appearance is to you and me. vs. 15-16**

Beloved, has the Lord appeared to you through the testimony of a faithful witness? The early disciples took The Great Commission literally and began spreading the Good News of Christ’s triumphant proclamation...He is alive and to as many as receive Him, to them He gives eternal life! I’m glad that His testimony has appeared unto me, and I have personally believed and I am saved! Beloved, let us do the work of an evangelist and tell all whom we encounter of **Jesus’ Triumphant Resurrection!** “He was born, lived, died, was buried and early the third day, He arose from the dead and He is Lord!

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**Looking Ahead:**

**April 3, 2016**

**Luke 7:1-10**

**Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!**