

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## "HE IS NOT HERE—HE HAS RISEN!"

**Big Idea:** Jesus' death and resurrection gloriously changes everything!

## Discuss

We have come to the most joyful celebration in the Christian year: the celebration of Christ's conquering of sin and death.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

On that first Easter morning, however, there were no great shouts of "Alleluia." There were no children laughing gaily in their Easter finery. There were no choirs or trumpets proclaiming the resurrection of our Savior. There were just a few women creeping quietly through the dawn with the mournful hope of anointing the dead body of their beloved Master. And finding an empty tomb did not fill them with joy. It was cause for bewilderment and alarm. It was an inauspicious beginning to a day that literally and gloriously changed everything.

- 1) In the years since Jesus' life, many people have given alternative explanations for the resurrection declared so plainly by the angel at the tomb. There have been theories of Jesus merely "swooning" on the cross. Others have proposed that the disciples created a legend about Jesus some years after his death or purposefully wove together a fraudulent, deceptive story.
  - What details in this account of Mark's refute such claims?
  - How might this account have been written differently if the disciples had really wanted to perpetuate fraud and deception or create a legend about Jesus?
- 2) Dorothy Sayers once wrote, "Perhaps it is no wonder that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross." (She could also have added, "first at the tomb on the day of resurrection.") She went on to say, "They had never known a man like this Man—there never has been such another."<sup>1</sup>
  - All four gospels make clear the devotion of Jesus' female followers. A little bit of conjecture will be involved in answering this question, but why (do you think) women were so committed to Jesus? More importantly, what do we learn about Jesus when considering the commitment he inspired? You may want to review Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well (John 4:7-42) and his friendship with Mary and Martha (see Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:17-37) as you answer this question.
  - By including details about the women at the tomb and what they were told, what does Mark get across?
- 3) Joseph of Arimathea acted decisively and boldly in asking for the body of Jesus. How does Jesus' resurrection enable us to act similarly in our own lives?

DATE: April 21, 2019

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 15:42-16:8

## Pray

ALMIGHTY GOD,

What joy it is to know that Jesus was the victor on the cross—the conqueror of death, hell, and all opposing might!

We were once alienated from you, but you have brought us into your Kingdom. You have rescued us from the dominion of darkness.

Just as your death is our life, your resurrection is our peace.

Give us wisdom and understanding that we may live a life worthy of you and may please you in every way: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in our knowledge of you.

In the name of our great Redeemer, amen.

—based in part on "Resurrection" The Valley of Vision, p. 48, and Col. 1:10-11, 21

**PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS**

Reformed University Fellowship

**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**

William and Charisa serving in a sensitive area

<sup>1</sup>from the 1947 Dorothy Sayers essay, "The Human-Not-Quite-Human"