

Readings

Scripture

¹When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- Mark 16:1-8 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

- Mark 8:34-35 (*English Standard Version*)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Galatians 2:20 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Angel's Landing
Mark 16:1-8

The Way Forward
Brad Anderson

Jesus reveals the way forward through his suffering, death, and resurrection...
(Mark 8:34-35, Galatians 2:20)

What does the way forward reveal about the path of discipleship?

Suffering: they went to the tomb... (Mark 16:2)

- What is revealed about discipleship as we go to the tomb?

Death: they entered the tomb... (Mark 16:5)

- What is revealed about discipleship as we enter the tomb?

Resurrection: they fled from the tomb... (Mark 16:8)

- What is revealed about discipleship as we flee from the tomb?

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What literature or films best depict all three of the following words: suffering, death and resurrection?
- What do each of the following terms (suffering, death, and resurrection) reveal about discipleship in Jesus Christ? Use Galatians 2:20 and Mark 8:34-35 to help shape your answer.
- Does the text of Mark 16 offer any clue to the emotions experienced by those early followers of Jesus surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of their savior?
- What does it mean to die with Jesus? What does it mean to be buried with Jesus? What does it mean to be resurrected with Jesus? If these realities are not part of someone's understanding of discipleship, what implications follow? Is discipleship in Jesus possible apart from these realities?
- What surprises you most this Easter? How does the resurrection of Jesus affect your outlook on life today?