

HE IS RISEN!

Three times we have recorded for us in the gospel of Mark Jesus telling His disciples He would be betrayed, rejected, mocked, beaten, and ultimately killed (Mark 8:31; 9:31; and 10:33-34). Additionally, each time He told them of His impending suffering and death, He told them He would rise on the third day. In chapters 14 and 15 we see His suffering and death come just as He prophesied. Fortunately, that is not the end of the story.

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, the women who came to the tomb where Jesus had been buried were surprised by what they saw. The large stone in front of the door of the tomb had been rolled away (Mark 16:4) and a young man in a white robe sat in the tomb. He delivered the message to them: *"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!"* (Mark 16:6). Just as Jesus had told His disciples, He had risen from the dead.

The significance of the fact that He is risen cannot be over-stated. Paul said Jesus was *"declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead"* (Rom. 1:4). The theme of the gospel of Mark is *"the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1). All the miracles Jesus performed and the authority with which he spoke were evidence Jesus is the Son of God, but the ultimate proof is His resurrection. It is in His resurrection that He is declared to be God's Son.

In His resurrection, we have our hope to be raised. *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep"* (1Cor. 15:20). Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee of our resurrection from the dead. It is in our resurrection we have the hope of spending eternity with our Creator and Father.

Mark's gospel concludes with the ultimate proof Jesus is the Son of God. Our victory over the sin which separates us from God is found in the resurrection. The good news proclaimed at the tomb, *"He is risen!"* is the proclamation of victory. *"Thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1Cor. 15:57).

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