

2026-04-05

## **Keep God's One Command**

Mark 16:1-16

Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to Christianity. It was on the first day of the very first week that God “*commanded light to shine out of darkness.*” At God’s command it happened. Creation began with light. It was on the first day of the week that the One who is the Light of the world shone out of the darkness of the grave to give Light and Life to every person. It is in believing God’s truth and His revelation that we begin to see! Believing is seeing! God has shone the light of Christ in our hearts to give us “*the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*” (2 Corinthians 4:6). It was on the seventh day, the Sabbath that **God rested from His perfect work** of creation. In God’s perfect creation, He gave one command to Adam and Eve to keep. Don’t eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17). Those first humans rebelled and broke God’s perfect work. They did not keep God’s one command. It was never completely restored until Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus Christ, who on that first day of the week rose from the dead is the same One by Him and for Him “*all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth*” (Colossians 1:16). Now in Him, “*if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new*” (2 Corinthians 5:17). By believing in the resurrected Christ the restoration of God’s creation has begun. Jesus is “*the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name*” (John 1:9-12). For those who believe in His name, He has given us a new command that we are to keep so that He can restore light and life to others who will believe in Him.

**Mark 16:1-2** “*Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.*” These women had watched where Jesus was buried. They probably had talked with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus at some point and learned that there may not have been enough time to fully complete the burial rituals before the Sabbath began. Joseph of Arimathea did have time to buy a linen to wrap the body of Christ in, take the body of Christ down from the cross and place Him in a tomb. Nicodemus helped. He brought along 100 pounds of a mixture of myrrh and aloes to anoint the body (John 19:39). But the women wanted to contribute. These women bought more spices that morning to anoint the body of Jesus. These women were

faithful Jews, following the law. People were not allowed to work on the Sabbath. They had to wait until the Sabbath was over before they could buy the spices and contribute to the burial custom. The sun had to rise. On the other hand, the chief priests and Pharisees broke the Sabbath. On the Sabbath, they went to Pilate and requested that he secure the tomb of Jesus for 3 days which he did. Pilate had the tomb sealed and set a guard outside (Matthew 27:62-66). After the Sabbath was over, the women came to the tomb. The sun had risen. It was Sunday the first day of the week.

**Verses 3-4** “*And they said among themselves, ‘Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?’ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large.*” The women did not know about the Roman guards or the sealing of the tomb. That took place after the women had left. Their main concern as they approached the tomb was how they were going to move the large stone from the door of the tomb. They might have thought about going back into the city and getting some of the disciples. But they were close enough to the tomb to check it out first. When they arrived, the stone had already been rolled away.

**Verses 5-6** “*And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.’*” There must have been some light shining from the tomb. Matthew described the countenance of the angel was like lightning (28:3). I would guess the women entered the tomb with some caution and hesitancy. The women saw an angel and they were afraid. There are times that what we see should encourage us, but we let it frighten us. The angel was kind to them, telling them not to be alarmed or afraid. The women were so intent at looking at the angel they did not notice that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb. The angel had to point it out to them. The Jesus of Nazareth, who **was** crucified, whom the women sought, was not in the tomb. He **is** risen! The angel showed the women the empty shelf. They had seen Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus lay the body of Jesus in that place. Now Jesus is gone. **The resurrection of Jesus tells us that God accepted Jesus’ suffering and death as a just payment for our sins.** By His crucifixion we are reconciled to God. Now that we are reconciled, His resurrection brings us new life (Romans 5:10).

**Verses 7-8** “*But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.’ So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.*” The women came to the tomb to anoint a dead body. All the

disciples, the women and men had been told by Jesus that He would rise from the dead on the third day. If they believed the words of Jesus, the women and the men would have come to the tomb expecting a miracle. No one believed what Jesus said except for the chief priest and Pharisees. They sealed the tomb trying to prevent the resurrection of Jesus. There is no power on earth that can stop a resurrection of the perfect Man doing His perfect work to prove He is God, paying the debt for our sin. The angel sent the women to tell the men. The women were the apostles to the apostles. The resurrection miracle happened just as Jesus said. The women were to tell the men, especially Peter. After his denial of Jesus, he needed a personal invitation to come. As Jesus went before them, He always goes before us in every situation.

**Verses 9-10** *“Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.”* Jesus gave special honor to show Himself first to Mary Magdalene. She appears to be the leader of the women. She is the first to carry the message of Jesus’ resurrection. It was the faithful women who did something while the men *“mourned and wept.”*

**Verses 11-12** *“And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.”* Like most people, the first time the disciples heard that Jesus was alive, they did not believe it. They did not believe what Mary told them. They probably thought she must have been imagining it. She did imagine lots of things in her past life. Then there were others who saw the resurrected Jesus. The two on the road to Emmaus returned claiming to have seen the risen Christ.

**Verse 13** *“And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.”* The disciples did not believe their report either. Maybe they thought, if Jesus was risen, surely He would have appeared to us first, His most trusted disciples. No, they did not believe His words. They did not expect Jesus to rise from the dead after He had told them over and over again. Jesus’ teaching to His disciples were true once again. He told them they would weep and mourn but their sorrow would turn to joy (John 16:20). Jesus told His disciples, *“You now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you”* (16:22).

**Verse 14** *“Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.”* Later, after they had time to consider their decision, Jesus appeared to His disciples. We have part of that account in the Gospel of John

20:19-23. Mark includes that Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart. I wonder, at the last Judgment, how many people Jesus will rebuke for that same reason. Jesus had to show the disciples His hands and side to prove to them who He was. *“Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord”* (John 20:20).

**Verses 15-16** *“And He said to them, ‘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.’”* Jesus gave these men and women one command to keep. Mark records Jesus saying, *“Preach the gospel.”* Matthew records Jesus saying, *“Make disciples”* (28:19). Jesus said both. They basically mean the same thing. Share the good news that Jesus is risen from the dead. His death pays the debt for all of our sins. It is the only payment for our sins that God accepts. Everyone must believe His words. Believe what He has done for us. Become His disciple. Learn how He has designed life and live according to His will and plan for your life.

What is the gospel? It is the good news of Jesus. We are all sinful people. No matter how good we can be, we cannot be perfect. We have all made mistakes. **Do not make the mistake of not believing this truth.** While we were still sinners, *“Christ died for the ungodly”* (Romans 5:6). He paid the debt for our sins. Believe and accept His sacrifice for you. Only perfect people get into heaven. The only way to become perfect is to be forgiven by God. When you believe and accept God’s forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, He gives you perfection and eternal life. That gift will be opened and realized when we enter into God’s glory. Until then we live in this fallen world with a sinful nature, but also with God’s Spirit and His power in our lives to know the mind of God and to do His will. Make the right choice!

What is making disciples? God saves people. We are to disciple them. We are to help people believe and live God’s truth. We are to help people know and do God’s will. It is hard to teach others what they are to do if we do not believe and live God’s truths ourselves. Are you transforming your thinking? Are you studying God’s word to prove His will for your life? Are you learning to observe all of God’s commands? This is an essential lifestyle we must live in order to make disciples. Live for Jesus!

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