

A Mark 16:1-8. The resurrection of Jesus:

❖ Chronology and memorial.

- Jesus had announced that, after his death, he would rise again on the third day (Mark 10:34). Jesus died on the day called “the preparation” (that is, the day before the Sabbath) and was resurrected on the first day of the week, after the Sabbath (Mark 15:42; 16:1-2).
- The Jews called the days of the week first (Sunday), second (Monday),..., preparation (Friday) and Saturday. Furthermore, they had an inclusive method of counting [a part of the day was counted as the whole day]. In this way, Friday was the 1st ^{day} of Jesus' death; Saturday the 2nd ^{day}; and Sunday the 3rd ^{day}.
- Beginning in the 2nd century, Christians began to honor the first day of the week as the day of the Lord's resurrection. Gradually, they made it a day that replaced Saturday as a day of worship.
- But in the New Testament there is no reference to the day of resurrection as a day of worship. Paul makes it clear that the memorial of death and resurrection (its symbolic meaning) is baptism (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:4).

❖ A real fact.

- How can we be sure that Jesus' resurrection was a real event?
 - (1) Many witnesses saw Jesus resurrected (1Co. 15:3-8)
 - (2) The priests had to bribe the soldiers who witnessed the resurrection (Mt. 28:11-15)
 - (3) The people who experienced the events were willing to die defending the reality of the resurrection (Acts 7:56-60)
 - (4) Saul, a staunch enemy of Christians, saw the resurrected Jesus and his life changed radically (Acts 9:1-6)
 - (5) The very existence of the Christian church attests to the reality of the resurrection.

❖ Bearers of good news.

- The first to see the empty tomb were some women who came to embalm Jesus' body (Mark 16:1-4).
- After assuring them that Jesus had risen, the angel who had remained at the tomb commissioned them to announce the event “to his disciples and to Peter” (Mark 16:7).
- With the excitement of the events, they returned scared, without commenting anything to anyone (Mark 16:8). On the way, Jesus himself appeared before them and encouraged them to speak without fear of his resurrection (Mt. 28:8-10).
- The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are not events that should be silenced.

B Mark 16:9-20. Witnesses of the resurrection:

❖ The first witnesses.

- By uniting the four gospels, we can get an idea of what happened that Sunday:
 - (1) An angel causes an earthquake and opens the tomb (Mt. 28:2)
 - (2) The guards remain as dead (Mt. 28:4)
 - (3) Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb from Bethany (Jn. 20:1)
 - (4) Other women come from Jerusalem and talk to the angels (Luke 24:1-5)
 - (5) The women return to Jerusalem (Mark 16:8)
 - (6) At Mary's announcement, Peter and John run to the tomb (Jn. 20:2-3)
 - (7) Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9)
 - (8) Jesus appears to the rest of the women (Mt. 28:9)
 - (9) The disciples do not believe (Mark 16:11)
 - (10) Soldiers are bribed (Mt. 28:11-13)
 - (11) Jesus appears to Peter (Luke 24:34)
 - (12) Jesus travels to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-15)
 - (13) The disciples of Emmaus go to the upper room (Mark 16:12-13)
 - (14) Jesus appears in the upper room (Mark 16:14)
- The resurrection of Jesus was real. If the story were fictional, would the authors have highlighted the faith of the women and the disbelief of the disciples?

❖ A story to spread.

- Jesus commissioned his followers to go into all the world to preach (Mark 16:15). Why is this extremely important?
- Acceptance or rejection of the gospel is a matter of eternal life or death (Mark 16:16). We cannot allow anyone to die in ignorance. We must tell them about the Savior.
- A special power accompanies the preachers of the gospel (Mark 16:17-18). However, sometimes God allows the seed of the gospel to be planted with the blood and suffering of the messengers (Acts 7:58).
- One thing we must be clear about: Jesus does not ask us to do this work alone. He promises his presence and power (Mt. 28:18-20). Just as He helped the first disciples, He will help us to finish the work (Mark 16:20).