

## Adult Sunday Bible Study Lesson

### The Gospel of Mark

May 26, 2019

#### Death Defeated

**Situational Context:** Jesus has died having given up His spirit willingly to death, **John 10:17-18 (NIV2011)** <sup>17</sup>The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

**Lesson Theme:** They entered the vestibule of the burial chamber, at the far end of which was the individual niche (a bench or shelf) where Jesus’ body had been laid. The divinely sent messenger delivers the good news and issues further instructions to be followed. The stunned woman disobeys. Jesus ensures that Peter is included.

**Mark 16:5-8 (NIV2011)** <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go; tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’ ” <sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**1. Dead: Mark 15:42-47 (NIV2011)** <sup>42</sup> It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>44</sup> Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. <sup>47</sup> Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

**Interpretation:** The Preparation Day is day before the Sabbath. Food was prepared before sunset, when the Sabbath began. Joseph would have to buy the linen, make arrangements for Jesus' burial, and ready the tomb in the three hours remaining between Jesus' death and sunset.

Joseph of Arimathea is perhaps from Ramah in Judea, twenty miles northwest of Jerusalem, the city of the prophet Samuel and a member of the Sanhedrin.

Joseph was no doubt a pious Pharisee, but also a secret follower of Jesus. This is apparently Joseph's first act of faith, but it comes at a time when all Jesus' own disciples had fled. Joseph puts himself in conflict with the decision of the Sanhedrin, and jeopardizes his entire future. Pilate's surprise again confirms the unusual character of Jesus' death. Jesus died, He did not swoon or faint.

### **Supporting Texts:**

**John 19:38 (NIV2011)** <sup>38</sup> Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

**Mark 15:40 (NIV2011)** <sup>40</sup> Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome.

**Matthew 27:63-64 (NIV2011)** <sup>63</sup> "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

### **Discussion Starters:**

**Why is it important how Jesus died?**

**Why is it important that He really died?**

**What is the source of Joseph's careful devotion?**

**2. Grave Opened: Mark 16:1-4 (NIV2011)** <sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

**Interpretation:** These women arrived to care for the body and find the tomb to be open.

**Supporting Texts:**

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV2011)** <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of who are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

**Discussion Starters:**

**What did the women believe?**

**What was their motivation, faith or love?**

**3. Risen: Mark 16:5-8 (NIV2011)** <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go; tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" <sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**Interpretation:** the declaration of His resurrection, which that His preaching concerning the coming of the kingdom in power is true.

## **Supporting Texts:**

**Mark 15:46 (NIV2011)** <sup>46</sup> So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

**Matthew 28:2 (NIV2011)** <sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

**Mark 1:15 (NIV2011)** <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

**1 Corinthians 15:50-56 (NIV2011)** <sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NIV2011)** <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of who are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

## **Discussion Starters:**

**What does Jesus’ resurrection say about our pending resurrection?**

**Why did Jesus single out Peter?**

**Why did Jesus want to meet with His disciples in Galilee?**