

# No One Understands the Good News

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Mark 16:1-8

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## Synopsis:

Today we finish the drama we entered last Sunday. The drama began with the triumphal entry of the Messiah into the Temple accompanied with waving branches and praise. “The exile is over! The King is returning!” shouted the crowds. The drama darkened this week through betrayal on Thursday night and seeming defeat on Friday; it concludes today with the surprise victory of God, who raises Jesus bodily from the tomb. What a story? What did it mean to first century people, and what does it mean for you and me?

It means that God in Jesus has defeated evil, sin, and death to commence the reign of the Messiah. And, we can participate in this now.

## I.

### Act One: The Triumphal Entry

Mark 16: 2 “When the sun had risen, they went to the tomb”

Pardon the Review: Have to understand the story from start

Jesus’ Worldview: 1<sup>st</sup> Century Palestine

Monotheism = one god, political (your god is idol)

Election = Israel is chosen to bless nations; what happens through and to them has universal significance (Gen 12, Isa 56)

Exile = Yahweh judges Israel for failing her election

Election stalled (exile still in place, Rome)

End = story has an end when things will be made right, when Yahweh defeats enemies and rules. This would happen through intense suffering.

Jesus’ Message: Kingdom of God is here

Exile is over (Mark 1 “Kingdom of God is at hand”)

Evil will be defeated (real enemy behind Rome/Israel)

Yahweh returns to Jerusalem to rule

Jesus enters Jerusalem and goes to the temple (threat)

He believes that through his suffering,  
Kingdom will come  
Nations will be blessed

\*This is the drama we entered last Sunday.

If this is only true! Could it be?  
If so, you are forgiven, restored, and blessed.

Act one begins with promise and threat  
What's been happening this week?

## II.

### **Act Two: The Seeming Defeat**

Mark 16:5 "As they entered the tomb"

Jesus entered Jerusalem in praise, but things quickly darkened.

Maundy Thursday (betrayal)

First the crowds and then the disciples betrayed him

Good Friday (defeat)

Roman crucifixion, shameful and painful death

Act two ends with seeming defeat.

Rome has won. Evil has won.

The Kingdom of God has not come.

This is where we pick up the story of the ladies coming to the tomb to do  
business with betrayal, defeat, and death.

(READ Mark 15:42-16:4)

## III.

### **Act Three: The Surprising Victory**

Mark 16:8 "So they went out and fled from the tomb"

Act three begins today, and it astonishes everyone.

Jesus expected that his death would bring the Kingdom

Expectation of Jews: Think back on the drama

One God is at work in Israel

Exile for judgment  
King returns to rule  
Takes judgment upon himself  
Victory over evil  
Blessing for the nations (that's us)

Something remarkable happened: Jesus is alive after death  
What does it mean?

Coming Kingdom: Expected general resurrection (Pharisees)  
God raises one man: Strange  
Bodily resurrection (all accounts, even Paul)  
not ghost, spirit, idea, resuscitation,  
but bodily transformation

What did first century people think?

-Just life after death for good people? No  
-Much more

Here's what the resurrection of Jesus meant and means:

1. The exile is over. What God began with Israel is now complete. God through Jesus Christ returns to rule.
2. Paradoxically, though, the kingdom of this world still exists (Pilate, Herod, Rome)
3. People expected general resurrection. This has not happened. God raises one man to show victory.
4. God's future reign is here now; new creation is here now, even though the old world carries on.
5. Through Jesus' victory God will bless the nations (that's us)

Here's the good news: Evil, sin, and death are defeated

1. You may encounter the risen Jesus now, before you die.
2. You may live differently now, before you die.
3. You may participate in the redemption of the world now, before you die.

I am asking you to say yes to the risen Jesus.

Here's how the good news works:

1. Gary Johnson, prostate cancer = this isn't the end.
2. People sick here = this isn't the end
3. People disappointed = this isn't the end

4. People disillusioned = God has a bigger story for you
5. Geneva = can start now with work that isn't in vain
6. Individuals = can start nows with eternal work

I invite you to say yes to Jesus now, before you die.

God all along meant to bless us through what happened to Israel. In Jesus we,

Experience victory over sin and death  
New creation for the world  
Reign of God here on earth

It starts now! He is risen!