

# Buried—But Risen!



## SABBATH—JUNE 18

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Mark 15:42–16:20.**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “ ‘Don’t [do not] be alarmed [afraid],’ he [the angel] said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. But he has risen! He is not here! See the place where they had put him’ ” (Mark 16:6, NlrV).

**A VERY SPECIAL TOMB.** Some of the most famous buildings on this earth are tombs. Take for example the great pyramid of Egypt. One-hundred thousand men are supposed to have worked for 20 years to build it. To this day, we do not know how the 23 million large stone blocks were put in place. But the great pyramid, like all tombs, was built with death in mind. It was a burial place for the pharaoh. It is a monument to death. The Taj Mahal of India also is a monument to death. As Shah Jehan’s<sup>1</sup> favorite wife, Mumtaz, lay dying, he promised to build her the loveliest memorial in the world. The Taj Mahal is a beautiful monument with white marble, valuable stones, and beautiful gardens and pools. Inside the Taj Mahal rest the bodies of Shah Jehan and Mumtaz. How different is the story we celebrate in this week’s lesson. The simple, rock-cut garden tomb where Jesus lay is more wonderful than the pyramid or the Taj Mahal. His tomb is empty!

**A LOOK AT THIS WEEK’S LESSON:** Why is it important to know that Jesus truly died on the cross? Who were the first ones to know that Jesus had risen? What is the proof that He rose from the dead? How do the arguments against His resurrection<sup>2</sup> fail?

\*Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, June 25.

<sup>1</sup>Shah Jehan—One of the kings of India who lived in the early 1600s.

<sup>2</sup>resurrection—coming back to life after dying.

SUNDAY—JUNE 19

**HE WAS BURIED  
(MARK 15:42-47).**

The Bible had foretold that Jesus would make His “grave with those [people] who were evil. But his body was buried in the tomb of a rich man” (Isaiah 53:9, NIV). Jesus was poor. He owned only one item of value. It was the seamless robe for which the Roman soldiers gambled (John 19:23, 24). It seemed impossible He would be buried in a rich person’s tomb because He was so poor. But two members of the Sanhedrin<sup>3</sup> came out into the open after Jesus’ death to announce they were His followers. Mark names Joseph of Arimathea. John tells us that Nicodemus (who had secretly talked with Jesus at night—John 3) went with Joseph (John 19:38-42).



**In 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, Paul summarizes salvation. The summary includes the words “he**

**[Jesus] was buried.” Why was it important for Paul to tell the Corinthians that Jesus was buried?**

The New Testament leaves no doubt that Jesus rose from the dead. The book of Acts shows that the apostles have always preached two positive points: (1) Jesus is risen, and (2) Jesus has poured out the Holy Spirit. So the summary of salvation in 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4 ties together three facts: (1) Jesus died for our sins. (2) He was buried. (3) He rose again.

So Jesus’ burial is important. His burial supports the truth that He really died. He did not just faint, as some critics and doubters have suggested. His death and burial make His resurrection a glorious miracle. When we know for sure that He died, we can understand the importance of His resurrection.

**What point do the following verses share? Why is that point important to our faith? Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:28; John 19:40; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 5:7.**

The Bible is clear. Jesus died for our sins. His death is a very important part of salvation. Without Jesus’ death, we would have no forgiveness, no salvation, and no eternal<sup>4</sup> life. We

<sup>3</sup>Sanhedrin—the Jewish governing council.

<sup>4</sup>eternal—forever; without beginning or end; lasting forever.

would be forever lost. His death helps guarantee our eternal life.

**MONDAY—JUNE 20**

**HE IS RISEN! (Mark 16:1-11).**

**Who were the first people to hear that Jesus had risen? What result did the empty tomb have on them? Mark 16:1-8.**



In Jesus' time, women were a lower class of society. But God did not view them this way. Mark points to the women who ministered to (helped) Jesus in Galilee and Jerusalem. They stood at the cross as He died. They were not ashamed to be known as His followers (Mark 15:40, 41). Some of these women bought spices to anoint<sup>5</sup> His body. They came early on Sunday to the tomb to anoint His body. These faithful women became the first to hear the wonderful news that Jesus had risen.

<sup>5</sup>anoint—rub the body with spices for burial.

<sup>6</sup>scholars—experts who study a subject very carefully.

<sup>7</sup>attitude—how you think and feel about something; the thoughts, feelings, and opinions of a person or group of people.

The women were the first to see Jesus alive. Many scholars<sup>6</sup> claim this proves that the Bible stories about Jesus' resurrection are true. If they wanted to make up the story, why not have some powerful religious or political leader in Palestine first see the empty tomb? That would have been a more powerful way of making their point.

Note how the women felt about Jesus' resurrection. Their attitude<sup>7</sup> was the same as the people who were surprised by Jesus' miracles and teaching. Now came the greatest miracle, the best proof that He was who He claimed to be. The women did not understand fully. But seeing the empty tomb surprised them very much.

**To whom did the risen Jesus first appear? How does this help prove that the stories about Jesus' resurrection were true? Mark 16:9-11; John 20:1-18.**

Women were the first to be informed of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus first appeared to a woman. And what a woman! Many people would think that Mary Magdalene's embarrassing past would not qualify her to be with Jesus. But Jesus had forgiven her great sins. So she loved Him very much. Her great love for Jesus made it no surprise that she was the first at

the tomb. To Mary Magdalene, who had received a new start, Jesus chose to show Himself.



“Go to those who believe in me.”  
(John 20:17, NIV).

**We are all influenced by social prejudice<sup>8</sup> against certain people. Which prejudice poisons your soul? You have seen today that women, who were a lower class of society, were the first people honored to receive the news of a risen Savior. So, how do you think God judges your prejudice? What can you do through God’s grace to get rid of prejudice in your life?**

<sup>8</sup>prejudice—judgment based on feelings without facts; prejudged feelings against a certain group of people because of their color or strange beliefs.

<sup>9</sup>Gospels—the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospels.

<sup>10</sup>events—things that happen.

**TUESDAY—JUNE 21**  
**APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD (Mark 16:12-18).**

Jesus chose to appear to both well-known people and not-so-well-known people. This is another example of Jesus’ interest in all His disciples. It does not matter whether or not His disciples were leaders or well known.

**To whom did Jesus appear as they were walking along the road? Mark 16:12, 13. Study the longer story in Luke 24:13-32. What lessons can you learn from it?**

**To whom else did Jesus show Himself as the risen Lord? Matthew 28:16, 17; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:33-49; John 20:19-29; John 21:1-14; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8.**

Each Gospel<sup>9</sup> writer gives information about the appearances of the risen Jesus that the other writers do not. The four Gospels support one another to give powerful testimony that Jesus truly rose from the dead. Differences in some details are small and normal for eyewitness reports. We probably cannot be sure as to the exact order of events.<sup>10</sup> But we may be sure of the following appearances of the risen Lord:

A. To Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; John 20:15-17).

B. To the other women after they left the tomb (Matthew 28:9, 10).

C. To Peter before the walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5).

D. To the two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32).

E. To the disciples in the upper room (Mark 16:14; John 20:19-24). But Thomas was not there.

Additional appearances after the Resurrection Day:

F. To the 11 people with Thomas in the upper room a week later (John 20:26-29).

G. To seven of the disciples fishing on Lake Galilee (John 21:1-13).

H. To about five hundred people (1 Corinthians 15:6).

I. To James (1 Corinthians 15:7).

J. To the 11 people just before Jesus went to heaven (Mark 16:19, 20; Luke 24:50-52; Acts 1:4-12).

**Think about the many places Jesus went to and the many people who saw Him. How do these stories help make stronger your faith in His resurrection and the plan of salvation?**

**WEDNESDAY—JUNE 22**

**THE GREATEST MIRACLE  
(Matthew 27:62-66).**

**When was the first time some-**

**one tried to pretend Jesus had not arisen from the dead? (Matthew 28:11-15). What answer would you give to people who say Jesus was not resurrected?**

In last week's lesson, the religious leaders took steps so Jesus' disciples would not be able to steal Jesus' body. With Pilate's permission, they sealed Jesus' tomb and set up a guard (Matthew 27:62-66).

**How did sealing Jesus' tomb and having a guard only give stronger proof for Jesus' resurrection?**

Throughout history, people have tried to explain Jesus' empty tomb. They have said that Jesus did not die on the cross. He just fainted and later woke up in the coolness of the tomb. They also have said that He did not actually appear to the disciples. The disciples wanted so badly for Him to rise again that they imagined they saw Him. Psychologists<sup>11</sup> call this wish-fulfillment.

**What proof in the Bible discredits the idea that Jesus did not really die? John 19:31-35. How might you defend Jesus' resurrection with someone who argues that the disciples only imagined that He came back to life? (Acts 1:3, 4).**

<sup>11</sup>psychologists—people who make a study of the human mind.

The Gospel stories of Jesus' resurrection show that the disciples did not just imagine that they saw Him. Jesus' disciples did not expect Him to rise again. They did not believe the people who brought reports of His resurrection. (Read Matthew 28:17; Mark 16:11, 13; Luke 24:11; John 20:24-29.)

Two great facts support Jesus' resurrection. First, Jesus' body disappeared. Something happened to it, even though the tomb was sealed and a guard was in place. The easiest way for Jesus' enemies to prove He was still dead would have been to point to Jesus' body. But they could not, because there was no body! Second, after the Cross, the disciples were broken and discouraged. After Jesus' resurrection, they were filled with faith and power. They went out in Jesus' name. What made the difference? They had seen their risen Lord.

**Suppose someone were to ask why Jesus' resurrection is so important to you. How would you answer?**

#### THURSDAY—JUNE 23

### JESUS' COMMAND TO WORK (Mark 16:15-20).

We have been talking about Jesus' appearances after He arose. But the word *appearances* is not enough to describe what happened. People saw Jesus. But Jesus also spoke. He

answered questions. And He even ate with the disciples. These were meetings with His followers rather than just appearances.

**How long did these meetings of the resurrected Jesus and His followers take place? Acts 1:3. How did this time help to make Jesus' followers stronger for their mission?**

Mark 16:14 says that even after His resurrection, He had to upbraid (scold) His disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart toward the people who had first reported that they had seen Him. Jesus had to speak strong words to them for their doubts. We are the same! Probably every one of us could give stories of how God has worked in our lives. But a short time later, we show unbelief and hardness of heart.

**What work did Jesus give to His disciples? Mark 16:15. How does this work compare<sup>12</sup> with what we believe is our work as Seventh-day Adventists? Revelation 14:6.**

Now read Mark 16:19, 20. Jesus has now gone to the Father in heaven. He is sitting at the right hand of God. Sitting at God's right hand shows Jesus' authority.<sup>13</sup> But at the same time, Mark 16:19, 20 talks about

<sup>12</sup>compare—show how things are the same.

<sup>13</sup>authority—the skill to make someone obey; influence that creates respect and trust; power.

Jesus working with His church and confirming (supporting) the word (preaching) with signs and wonders. In other words, Jesus is up in heaven. But through His power and authority, He is still close to His church and His people. He gives them what they need to do what He asks them to do. Mark 16:19, 20 should have been a comfort to the early church. They should be a comfort to us now.

**Jesus “backed up [supported] his word by the signs that went with it [His word]” (Mark 16:20, NIV). How has God “backed up His word” in your life? Share your experience with others in your class. What can you learn from one another’s experience?**

#### FRIDAY—JUNE 24

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Study the following verses: Mark 15:42–16:20; Matthew 27:57–28:20; Luke 23:50–24:52; and John 19:38–21:25. Read Ellen G. White, “In Joseph’s Tomb,” “‘The Lord Is Risen,’” “‘Why Weepst Thou?’”<sup>14</sup> “The Walk to Emmaus,” “‘Peace Be Unto You,’” “By the Sea Once More,” “Go Teach All Nations,” and “‘To My Father and Your Father’” in *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 769–778, 779–787, 788–794, 795–801, 802–808, 809–817, 818–828, and 829–835.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

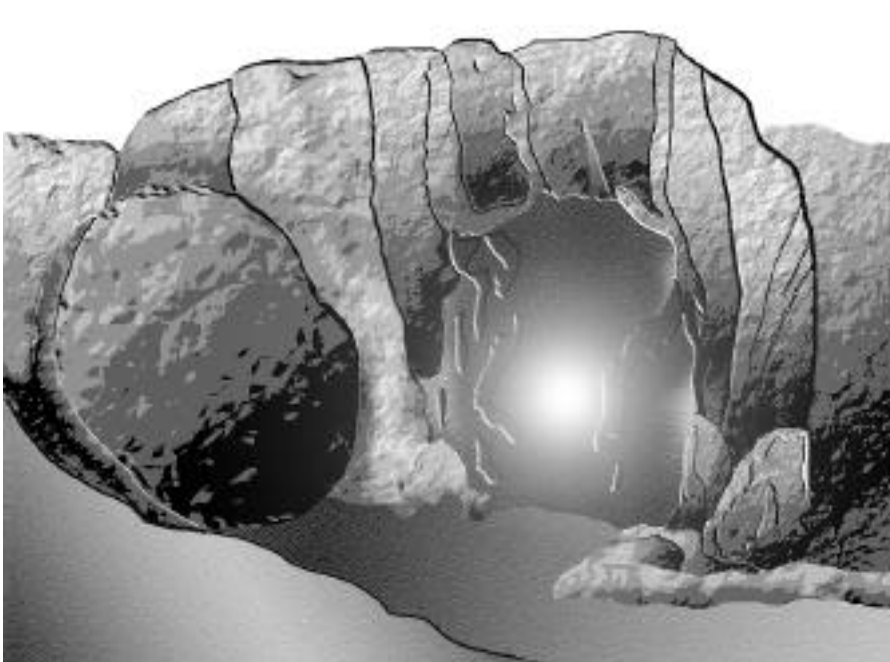
1. We have much proof for Jesus’ resurrection. This proof should

make our faith stronger. What other proof do we have that shows Christianity is real? How much proof do we really need? If we have proof, why do we need faith?

2. Christianity would seem to have started with very little hope of becoming a world religion. Jesus died young. His work was not accepted by the religious leaders of His day. But Christianity has become the world’s greatest religion today. Why is Jesus the most influential Person who has ever lived?
3. Mark 16:19 talks about Jesus up in heaven. What other verses talk about Him in heaven? What do these verses say He is doing in heaven?
4. How well is your church doing the work Jesus gave us in Mark 16:15? What can you do, as a person, or as a church, to be more involved in this work?

**SUMMARY:** What a wonderful close to the fast-moving, action-packed book of Mark. The greatest miracle, the most wonderful act, comes at the end of the story. Jesus’ enemies crucify Him and bury Him. But He comes back to life. As the risen Lord, Jesus has all power and all authority, over all the earth, to the close of history. And we, His followers, carry on His work as we eagerly wait for His second coming.

<sup>14</sup>“Why Weepst Thou?”—“Why Do You Cry?”



**Carry on His work while you wait for Him to come back!**