



Growth Group Questions
April 20, 2025
“Where Did Jesus Go?”

CONTEXT

This past Sunday we celebrated the glorious day when our Savior, Jesus Christ, was raised from the dead. At the end of Mark 15 we read that Mary, Mary and Salome had seen where Jesus was buried on Friday. Early on Sunday morning, they made their way to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus with spices. They had probably bought these on Friday afternoon after the crucifixion because they would not have been able to purchase them on the Sabbath (Saturday).

The disciples were nowhere to be found. The gospel of John tells us they were hiding. Yet, Mary, Mary and Salome make their way to the tomb, even though they are uncertain who will roll the stone away for them. Their simple obedience is a wonderful illustration of moving out in faith, even when we are not certain of what the future might hold.

They soon discover that the stone had been rolled away by God. This should remind us that everything connected to the resurrection of Jesus is the result of God’s work. Humankind serves as a witness, but we are not the ultimate workers. God does the work.

The removal of the stone was a supernatural event. It was removed not to give the women access to the tomb, but to demonstrate that Jesus had risen from the grave.

The women had brought the spices to anoint the body, but there is no body to be found. Jesus has been raised from the dead and he has gone ahead of them into Galilee, and they will find him there. This fulfills the words Jesus had spoken in Mark 14:28.

The crucifixion will not have the last word. Jesus will meet with those who let him down, including Peter. The very first action of Jesus in Mark was calling four fishermen to “travel with him” and in Galilee he will “re-gather” his disciples and remind them of the mission he had given to them. They would now be the ones “fishing for people.”

SCRIPTURE

Mark 16:1-8

¹ 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. ² Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶ "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. ⁷ 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.'" ⁸ Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Revelation 3:11-12

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

John 20:24-29

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

1 John 3:1-2

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,^[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

QUESTIONS

1. On Sunday, we were blessed with incredible music by the Chancel Choir, the La Jolla Brass, and our Worship Band. What is your favorite Easter hymn? What is it about this particular hymn that speaks to you at Easter?
2. The story of the women at the tomb can be found in Mark 16:1-8, Matthew 28:1-8 and Luke 24:1-12. As you read through these various versions of the story, what strikes you most about these women?

3. What lessons can we learn from the women at the tomb?
4. Carefully read Revelations 3:11-12. What does this verse say to you? Can you restate this verse in your own words?
5. John 20:24-29 tells the story of Doubting Thomas. What lessons can we learn from this story?
6. Pastor Paul quoted theologian Paul Tillich as saying: "Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith." What does that mean to you?
7. What can we do to combat doubts when they arise in our lives?
8. In what ways does the resurrection of Jesus change your perspective on life here and now?
9. As we close our study of the Gospel of Mark, what has struck you most about who Jesus is and what He is like?