

# NEW BEGINNINGS

December 7, 2014

Mark 16:1-8

Jesus' resurrection introduced to us a new life where old things are gone and new beginnings emerge in many facets of our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) – *"...Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"*

- The purpose of a seed is to produce new life, but first it has to die—death brings life.
- The Father's plan for us was not fully completed on the cross but at the resurrection.

Colossians 2:12-13 (TPT) – *"For we've been buried with him, immersed into his death. Our 'baptism into death' also means we were raised with him when we believed in God's resurrection power, the power that raised him from death's realm. This 'realm of death' describes our former state, for we were held in sin's grasp. But now, we've been resurrected out of that 'realm of death' never to return, for we are forever alive and forgiven of all our sins."*

## ***Jesus' Resurrection Introduced New Beginnings***

### **WE HAVE ASSURANCE THAT JESUS IS ALIVE AND STILL REIGNS**

- He is not a legend, but alive and real.
- Romans 8:11 (NLT) – *"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you."*

### **THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BROKE INTO EARTH'S HISTORY**

- Our world is now headed for redemption, not disaster.
- His mighty power is at work destroying sin and creating new lives.
- Following His resurrection came the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which is where the first gospel sermon is preached, and a ministry of signs and wonders springs up.
- The effect of their preaching and miracles brought thousands of both Jews and Gentiles to give their lives to Jesus.
- All this became possible because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

### **THE CONTROL AND PENALTY OF SIN IS ERASED**

- Without the resurrection, we would still be under the control and penalty of sin.
- The resurrection demonstrated that God accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

Romans 6:11 – dead to sin and alive in Christ

- *Dead* – sin is destitute of force or power
- Sin now has no control or influence over us just like objects of this world have no effect on those in the grave.
- The only power sin has is what we give it.
- *Alive* – in unbroken fellowship with God
- Sin has no control over you and you are in unbroken fellowship with God.

Romans 6:6-14 (MSG)

## **WE HAVE HOPE NOT ONLY IN THIS LIFE, BUT FOR LIFE BEYOND THE GRAVE**

1 Peter 1:3-4 (MSG) – *“What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now!”*

- We’ve already been raised to life with Him.
- Death has been conquered.
- Jesus’ resurrection proves that God has the power to raise us from the dead and give us eternal life.
- Of all religions, Jesus is the only Savior that transcends death and promises that those who believe in Him will do the same—He did this for us, we just receive.

## ***Personal New Beginnings***

### **THE WOMEN**

- Jesus told His followers that He would die, but be raised back to life again.
- The ladies went to the tomb to anoint His body.
- To ask who will roll the stone away is to assume that Jesus is still dead inside.
- They watched Him die and saw a 2 ½ ton stone rolled in place and sealed with a Roman seal.
- When they arrived and saw the stone rolled away, “they were completely taken aback, astonished”. (v. 5, MSG)
- They saw the empty tomb, but still did not understand.
- When they found out Jesus was alive, they were beside themselves.
- Jesus did exactly what He said He was going to do and they were still amazed.
- They have no expectancy that Jesus will rise from the dead—it’s almost as if He had never spoken of it.
- Even in their lack of faith, the ladies are given a new task of telling the disciples of His resurrection.
- They weren’t written off, but given a clean slate—a fresh start.

- Later in Mark 16, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (one of the three that had disbelief)—she in turn is commissioned to bring hope and comfort to the disciples.
- He tells her in John that He is returning to His Father and her Father—we are taken into the same relationship that Jesus has with the Father.

### **THE DISCIPLES**

- They deserted Jesus when He was arrested.
- The angel’s words to tell them He is alive and will meet with them gave them hope of renewal and forgiveness.
- He told them to meet Him in Galilee because there was work to do—their fear of the Jews kept them behind locked doors in Jerusalem.
- Jesus meets them where they are at—in Jerusalem, in their fear and brought them peace.
- After rebuking them for lack of faith and stubborn refusal to believe He had risen, He released them into their ministry—new beginning for the disciples.

### **PETER**

- He denied Jesus and wept bitterly from the fulfillment of Jesus’ word.
- (v. 7) – The angel made specific mention of telling Peter Jesus was alive—this was a sign of forgiveness.
- Peter was convinced he forfeited his right to be Jesus’ disciple—the message of the angel says otherwise.
- Jesus appears to Peter first before the other disciples (1 Corinthians 15:5).
- Jesus had not disowned or deserted him.
- He is first reconnected with Jesus, then with his mission.

Peter is then launched into a powerful ministry.

- He ministers to people with signs and wonders.
- He played a pivotal role in the Upper Room encounter.
- On the day of Pentecost he preaches the first gospel sermon.
- He is now no more the unreliable, self-confident man, but a trusted leader in the fellowship of believers.
- He preached the word in Jerusalem and abroad.
- He is later imprisoned and crucified upside down because his ministry was very effective.
- Jesus gave him the keys to the Church.

### **GOD IS REDEMPITIVE**

- After rebelling, being ungrateful for His provision, worshiping false gods, marrying unholy people, God still brought the Israelites into their promised land—He gave them a new beginning, a fresh start.

- In the midst of unbelief, fear and denial of relationship, Jesus extends to His disciples and followers a new start but also greater trust and commissioning.
- He sees the heart and purpose of each life and isn't swayed by circumstances.
- Jesus came from a line filled with adultery, prostitution, murder, etc. and He ushered in a new beginning to His line.