

Presentation 14

Mark's Story of Jesus' Resurrection

Act Four: Mk 16.1-8



Anastasis, symbolic representation of the resurrection of Christ. Panel from a Roman lidless sarcophagus of the "Passion type", ca. 350 CE. From the excavations of the Duchess of Chablais at Tor Marancia, 1817-1821. Public Domain

Act Four: Mk 16.1-8—Jesus' Resurrection

Mk 16.1-8

- V1: The women come to the tomb, having purchased spices to anoint Jesus' body
- V2. The sun has arisen: a new dawn and moment of enlightenment
- V3. The physical and human impossibility of the stone covering the entrance to the tomb being removed. The stone 'had been rolled back' = divine passive, God has entered the scene.
- V5: the 'young man' seated 'on the right side dressed in the white robe'. Reminders of Jesus in his ministry? Is this Jesus?



Vatican Museum, Museo Pio Cristiano. 4th Century (c 340) Sarcophagus, the Risen Jesus as a Young Man.

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- The young man announces the meaning of Jesus' resurrection; "He has been raised, he is not here, see (behold/contemplate) the place where they laid him' (16.6). This is God's act to the faithful Jesus. Resurrection is linked to the experience of absence. The experience of absence is linked to resurrection. Easter faith knows what absence is like.
- V7: The risen Jesus will meet the disciples in Galilee—the place of rehabilitation and reconciliation.
- V8: The Gospel's final verse. This is not the end, but the beginning! It's a new moment. The women are in 'ecstasy' and speechless with religious awe ('fear').

The shorter and longer endings of Mark: Mk 16.9-19

- Concluded after the other Gospels were read by a later generation of Mark's Gospel audience.
- The ending of Mk now becomes one of joy and mission, with the commissioning of the disciples to the world, accompanied by signs. In the final verses of the later ending, Jesus ascends to God. A note of success and triumph concludes the new ending of Mark.



The Reliquary Cross of Justin II (the Crux Vaticana), Constantinople, 568-74.

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https://en.wiki.org/wiki/Cross_of_Justin_II#/media/File:The_Cross_of_Justin_II.jpg.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- Can you recall moments when you experienced a sense of 'new life' or energy over an event, encounter, friendship, or experience?
- How might local Christian communities reveal their commitment to their belief in Jesus' resurrection?

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