

# WITNESS

Mark 5:9-20  
Pastor Alan Dionson  
April 9, 2023

## INTRO:

1. The case for the resurrection
2. The case for stronger evidence

## A. ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE RESURRECTION

1. Jesus was buried in the wrong **tomb**
2. Jesus **swooned**
3. Jesus' followers were **hallucinating**
4. Jesus' body was **stolen**

## B. WITNESSES OF THE RESURRECTION

1. **Mary Magdalene** and her sense of identity (v. 9)
2. The **Two Disciples** on the road to uncertainty (v. 12)
3. The **Eleven** and their perception of hopelessness (v. 14; 1 John 1:1-4)
4. The **Other Witnesses** and their experience of His power (v. 19-20)

## CONCLUSION

<sup>3</sup>I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup>He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup>He was seen by Peter<sup>[c]</sup> and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers<sup>[c]</sup> at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.... <sup>20</sup>But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.<sup>21</sup> So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. <sup>22</sup>Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 20-22)

## TABLE TALK QUESTIONS

The Gospel of Mark is the first gospel to be written. Although it bears the name Mark as its author, there is considerable evidence that Peter was the principal inspiration behind the gospel. The last chapter of Mark provides the most honest, raw, and unedited response to the resurrection of Jesus.

1. Read Mark 16:9-20. What immediate observations can you summarize from this message regarding the witnesses of Jesus' resurrection?
2. Let us focus in detail on the main characters of the resurrection and read Mark 16:9. Why would Mary Magdalene be the first one to witness Jesus's resurrection? What is the significance of this reality to women in the context of the gospel and culture today?
3. Read Mark 16:12. Who were these two disciples, and where were they going? What is the motive behind leaving the other disciples and venturing in a different direction? Why would Jesus choose them to be the second witnesses of His resurrection? What is the significance of this revelation in our context today?
4. Read Mark 16:14. Why were the eleven other disciples the last ones to witness Jesus' resurrection? Unlike the previous witnesses, the gospel of Mark provides us with a more robust language of their unbelief. What do you think is the reason behind the disciples' unbelief?
5. Read 1 John 1:1-4. How has this passage proved that the disciples were passionate about sharing the truth of the resurrection?
6. Read Mark 16:19-20. This passage shows us how the gospel was preached by the eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection. We are here today because of their testimony of what they have "seen and heard." In what way have you experienced God that makes you stronger in your faith about His resurrection?
7. Close the Life Group meeting by praying for one another and rejoicing in what He has done in our lives.