

**"Christ Is Risen! Part 1" April 7, 2015**

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and Sign up for REFRESHMENTS. Thank you!  
Prayer Requests & Opening Prayer**

**Matthew 28:1-15.** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

<sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

<sup>8</sup> So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

**1. What section of the newspaper do you read first? Do you find yourself looking for good news or bad news first?**

**2. Which do you believe more: What you see, what you hear, what you read, or what you want?**

**3. Why do you think Jesus appeared to the women disciples before he appeared to the men?**

**4. How would you argue against the following ideas?**

- a. The disciples stole the body (See Mt. 27:62-66 & 28:11-15).**
- b. Jesus was only unconscious on the cross.**
- c. The resurrection was just a story that caught on.**

**d. The disciples made up the story because they wanted so much for it to be true.**

**Mark 16:1-8.** 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. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup> and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

<sup>4</sup> But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup> "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. <sup>7</sup> 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.'"

<sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**1. What similarities are there between the two stories? What are the differences?**

**2. Why do you think there are differences in the two stories?**

**3. When it comes to telling people about Jesus, would you say you are more like the women in Matthew or the women in Mark?**

**4. How did the reality of Jesus' resurrection "dawn" on you? Were you more of a quick believer or a gradual believer?**

**5. How would you explain the real significance of Jesus' resurrection in your life? How does it make a difference for you? How would it make a difference in your life if Jesus had *not* been resurrected?**