

Good Reasons for Faith in Jesus

International Bible Lesson

Mark 16:1-8

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L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“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’” (Mark 16:7).

From the women’s testimony, Jesus’ disciples had enough evidence to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. First, the women saw an angel in the tomb sitting near the place where they had laid Jesus’ body. Second, the angel told them they were at the right tomb – the tomb of “Jesus the Nazarene who was crucified.” Third, the angel explained that Jesus’ body was gone because Jesus had risen. Fourth, the angel mentioned Peter specifically along with Jesus’ disciples. Since Peter had denied Jesus three times, with his guilty conscience and remorse he may have felt that he was no longer worthy to be a disciple of Jesus. As his risen Lord, Jesus wanted Peter to know that He forgave him and still considered him a disciple. Fifth, through the women, the angel reminded the disciples to do what Jesus had told them before He was crucified — they were to go to Galilee. The fact that the angel told them about Jesus’ private conversation with His disciples and His command to them indicates the women were not deceived – we have no evidence the women knew of or would have remembered at the tomb this command of Jesus prior to His crucifixion. The women gave the disciples good and sufficient reasons to believe Jesus had risen from the dead, but in their state of mind they would not believe Jesus had risen until Jesus appeared to them in Jerusalem and convinced them He was alive. Later, they obeyed and saw Jesus at the Sea of Galilee as He said (where Jesus restored Peter to apostleship).

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Thinking Further

1. If you had been one of Jesus' disciples, would you have left as soon as possible for Galilee to meet Jesus there after He was crucified?

2. Who were the women who went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body? Who were some of their children?

3. Do you think the women expected Jesus to rise from the dead? Give a reason for your answer.

4. What did the angel tell the women?

5. Why do you think the angel mentioned Peter by name specifically along with Jesus' disciples?