

The Rumor of Hope

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Mark 16:1-8.

B. The end of Mark begins with the darkest day in human history, but it ends with exploding hope.

C. The women at the grave were caught up in a moment of ecstasy.

II. What made the women change like this.

A. The Saturday before the Resurrection must have been the darkest of days for the disciples.

B. However, the disciples' hope had swallowed up their despair—they largely pass over the day in their accounts.

C. Events.

1. The stone had been rolled away.

2. The tomb was empty.

3. The grave clothes remained as if the body had evaporated.

4. The angels declared that Jesus had risen from the dead. His identity is stated.

5. The angels said that He was not there. His resurrection was physical.

6. The angels foretold that Jesus would go ahead.

7. The angels commanded the women to tell the disciples and Peter.

a. The addition of Peter is a gentle touch.

b. Peter is brought again into the apostolic band.

c. Jesus is available to individuals.

8. The angels tell them that Jesus would go to Galilee as He told them formerly. Jesus' words are trustworthy.

D. Men believed although they did not see.

1. Jesus makes this point clear to Thomas the doubter.

2. This is where we are today—we are blessed because we believe even though we do not see.

E. We must learn to worship the risen Lord—this is what makes Christianity what Christianity is.

1. Jesus is alive and available to us.

2. Jesus' promise is that if anyone would receive Him, He will enter into a person and change him.

Application questions:

1. What does the Resurrection mean to you? Explain.

2. How are people trying to oppose the Resurrection today? What is a biblical response to this opposition?

3. Have you received the risen Jesus for a changed life? Share your testimony or the testimony of someone you know.
