



## **The Story & Way of Jesus**

### **Goodness Is Coming**

Mark 15:40-16:8

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### **Mark 15:40-16:8**

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen,

and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid. 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. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "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. 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.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

"A chaplain is like a mix between a priest and a therapist. When a person grieves, very often they're falling. Falling into a sudden vacuum of loss, falling into hard and overwhelming emotions, falling into a 'new normal', literally falling on the floor. In many ways, I am trying to catch them. Not to stop their grief, but to be with them on the way down."

- J.S. Park

"The confident anticipation that goodness is coming."

- John Eldredge, *All Things New*

The moment we give up anticipating goodness is the minute we've forgotten the power of the resurrection.

"As far as the ancient pagan world was concerned, the road to the underworld ran only one way."

- N.T. Wright

“In almost every corner of this world and in almost every epoch of recorded history, women have been entrusted with the care of bodies. We birth them. We feed them. We wash them. We mend them. We comfort them. We fret over them. So it is nothing short of utterly unremarkable that it is women who arrive at the tomb of Jesus to anoint him for burial. It is obvious. It is commonplace. The women who fed him and washed him and looked after him in life come to care for his body one last time. And this is where the story is transformed. This is where it ceases to be ordinary... The women coming to tend to the body of their Lord and Teacher and Friend came to mark his end with one last act of tenderness. *What they find instead is a new beginning.* They are witnesses to his triumph, his ultimate and paradigm-annihilating triumph over death and brokenness and everything that could ever claim to come between us and God. He stands before them—his body transformed and brilliant—and commissions them to start telling the world about what they have seen.”

- Caitlin Kennell Kim, *Resurrection Women*

In what areas of your life have you stopped anticipating the goodness of God?

“He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”

### **John 21:1-7**

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

The presence of Jesus is the source of our anticipation for goodness.

If you decided today that you wanted to live in confident anticipation of the goodness of God, *how would your life need to change?*

### **Ephesians 1:19-21**

Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know...the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

“If Calvary means putting to death things in your life that need killing off if you are to flourish as a Christian and as a truly human being, then Easter should mean planting, watering, and training up things in your life (personal and corporate) that ought to be blossoming, filling the garden with color and perfume, and in due course bearing fruit.”

- N.T. Wright