

RESURRECTION - The Message of the Empty Tomb

Small Group Discussion

Mark 16:1 *When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back— it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. 6 And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."*

- 1.The natural had been replaced by the supernatural.
- 2.Death had been replaced with life.
- 3.Faith and love were transformed into hope.
- 4.Anticipation replaced fear.

The early Christians were convinced of the historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus. They saw this as proof that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the one and only Savior of the world. They realized that death was not the end and that Jesus was alive and coming again.

- **How did the resurrection change everything for the disciples and the followers of Jesus?**
- **In Verse 6, why do you think it was important for them to see that the tomb was empty?**
- **Discuss how the empty tomb might have given them faith that Jesus was alive even before they saw him.**
- **How do you imagine non-Christians feel when they discover that Jesus is not a part of dead, dull religious traditions? How would it stimulate them to find real salvation?**

Today, just like the early Christians, our destiny is also to have glorified bodies just as Jesus did after his resurrection.

Romans 8:22 *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*

1 John 3:22 *Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.*

The resurrected Jesus walked through walls, appeared, disappeared, discerned hearts, spoke anointed words, would never age or die, and was the "firstfruit" or first example of what we will be like with glorified bodies.

- **Can you think of some things that you especially look forward to in your resurrection body?**
- **What are some limitations that you now have that you won't have with a glorified body?**
- **What do you think would be appropriate or inappropriate actions with your new body?**
- **Does the Holy Spirit within you now lead you to minister to others as a foretaste of what is to come? How do you experience this?**