

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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In your own words summarize the main idea of last week's passage (MK 15:1-41)

**Read Mark 15:42-16:8. Share 2-3 observations of what you see in the passage and then answer some or all of the following questions:**

Why was Pilate surprised by Jesus' death? What does this tell us about how Jesus died? Why does this matter?

What do Joseph's actions reveal about the Sanhedrin/Jewish leaders?

What were the women expecting to find at the grave? What did they find?  
How would you react if you were there?

What is the significance of the Resurrection: For Jesus? For his claims? For the Temple system? For the Satan? For death? For humans? For creation?

How does the abrupt ending of Mark fit with the opening line that this is "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ"?

To read Mark's Gospel is to live out the parable of the sower (Mk 4:1-20). Mark has planted seeds of the word and leaves his story open ended in order to ask the reader (you!) "How will you respond to Jesus?" Will you:

Reject Jesus like the scribes and Pharisees?

Recognize him but refuse to follow him like the demons?

Forsake Jesus for earthly wealth like the rich young man?

Betray Jesus like Judas?

Abandon Jesus when the cost is too high like the male disciples?

Deny Jesus like Peter?

Turn on Jesus when he's no longer popular like the crowd did?

Use and abuse Jesus like Pilate and the soldiers?

Remain fearful and silent like the female disciples?

OR - believe the angel that "He is risen," worship like the woman with perfume, die to self like the generous widow, confess the truth like the centurion, be healed like the demoniac, and then "go to Galilee" to meet him? What is needed in order for you to do this?

How have you been changed, challenged, or strengthened by going through the book of Mark this year? What do you want to remember or press into?

As a Christian, how will you join Mark in bringing the Good News of Jesus to the world? What is one concrete step you can take this week?

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