

**TITLE:** JESUS - Risen

**PASSAGE:** Mark

**LOCATION:** St John's Wishart 9AM

**BI:** Jesus' resurrection means that he is the Lord of all, completely worthy of our trust

**STRUCTURE:**

- JESUS is the Risen Lord
  - JESUS is Deserving of our Trust
  - JESUS give us REAL LIFE
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- I don't know about you, but I am sick of unprecedented times.
  - Lately, it seems like groundhog day a bit.
  - The war in Iran is driving up cost of living pressures, fuel is getting more pricey, people are being encouraged to stay at home more...
  - There seems to be a lot of tension in the air.
  - There's a lot of worry, anxiety, fear, and pressure.
  - And it's exhausting!
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- And back on that very first Easter morning - 3 days after Jesus died - Jesus' friends and family were experiencing unprecedented times.
  - They had followed this Jesus bloke around the countryside for three years, they've hung onto his every word, seen his amazing miracles, and they've left their families, jobs, security, safety, their homes to go follow him!
  - They had such high expectations of him!
  - They thought that he was the forever king of the jews, who would drive out the Romans and restore Israel!
  - But - Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends,
  - The religious leaders had Jesus arrested, put on trial.
  - They came up with all kinds of false accusations
  - And then Jesus was crucified! He was killed in a way which was reserved for the worst of society!
  - And now he's been dead for over 48 hours - no chance of a miracle, so they thought.
  - And what's even more - is that the disciples thought that they were probably next on the chopping block.
  - On that morning - there would have been worry, anxiety, fear, dread, uncertainty, hopelessness, despair - these were *unprecedented times!!*
  - BUT, they wouldn't stay that way.
  - Let's tune in..

**JESUS is the RISEN LORD**

- Mark 16:1 "When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large."
- Some of the women went back to the tomb to do some of the burial rituals that they would do...
- And just so that we're sure, Mark tells us in the verses above that they had been to the tomb before when Jesus was laid there originally - so they didn't go to the wrong tomb!
- But they had a problem - the tomb would have been cut in the rock with a large stone rolled in front of it..and the rock was so heavy, that they probably couldn't have moved it by themselves..
- But it wasn't actually a problem - because the rock had already been moved away!
- And just so were sure - Mark reminds us that this was a very large rock, so it's not like it rolled away by itself!
- And so they entered the tomb...and encountered a man..probably an angel...
- V5-6 "And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed..."
- Don't be alarmed!!!!??

- Their Lord is dead, the stone has been rolled away, and you're just chilling in here...don't be alarmed? How can they not be alarmed?
- "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."
- Don't be alarmed - because Jesus Christ who was dead...is now gloriously alive!!!
- There's no need for fear - because Jesus is alive
- There's no need for despair - because Jesus is alive
- There's no need for hopelessness - because Jesus is alive!
  
- Life has triumphed over death!
- Hope has won, certainty has won,
- Jesus has completely won the victory over death!
  
- The religious leaders tried to do away with him, sin tried to defeat him - but nothing could hold him down, Jesus is completely alive!!
- There are a lot of leaders today who try to claim authority over people. There are a lot of smart people in the world who try to claim authority over their field of work or scientific world. There are a lot of skilled people in sports who claim to have authority over their chosen sport...
- And while that's great and interesting...
- If someone tried to claim authority over DEATH....well, you'd be pretty alarmed..
- But actually - Jesus does have authority over death, because he defeated it by raising from the dead!
- There is no one greater or more powerful than Jesus!
- Which means - that there is no one else more deserving of our Trust.

### **JESUS is DESERVING of OUR TRUST**

- In this world where nothing is certain, truth is up for grabs, tensions running high - there is someone who we can run to for safety and security and stability.
- Jesus!
- IF he is in authority over death, and everything else - then he alone is worthy of our trust and devotion!
  - What's the point of putting all our hopes and expectations in our money - if it's just going to be disbursed when we die?
  - What's the point of putting all our hopes and expectations in experiences like travel - if they won't last - or you all get food poisoning from bad prawns;
  - What's the point of putting all our dreams in our health, when we don't know what tomorrow brings!
  - What's the point of putting our all our hope and expectations in our family - even in our kids - when they can turn their backs on us, OR disappoint us
    - If we place the burden on our kids and family and spouses to satisfy us completely, how is that fair on them!
- But there is one who is superior to our money, career, profile, social media, fitness, relationship status, and our family - that's Jesus!
- He is the Lord of all!
- Here at St John's over the past twelve weeks have been taking a close look at this book of Mark and uncovering who this Jesus is.
- And what we've seen is that:
  - He is the one who has come to save us;
  - He has authority over sickness, evil, creation, and even death;
  - He is the one who cares for us and who has compassion on us;
  - He is the one who provides for us and has come to restore us in our relationship with God;
  - He is the one who died for us to take our sin and punishment that we deserve;
  - He is the one who has risen again - defeating death!
- Jesus is greater than anyone or anything else in this universe!
- So he ALONE is the one worthy of our trust.

### **JESUS gives us REAL LIFE:**

- And when we trust in the risen Jesus - that's when real life begins.
- It's written later on in the new testament:

- Eph 2:4 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”
- When we trust in Jesus - we are in a sense raised with him! What happens to Jesus - happens to us!
- And so we become truly alive when we are in a relationship with him.
- We can know that we are loved and cared for...that the God who made the universe, calls us his sons and daughters..
- We can know that we are never alone..God promises his Spirit for all who trust in him...
- We can cry out to God through prayer;
- We can know who he is and what he is like through the Bible...
- We can face all this uncertainty, all this unprecedented times, with even JOY! Knowing that God loves us and God is for us.
- But not only in this life - but we can even face death with hope and certainty - all because Jesus is alive.
  
- The promise is that if you trust in Jesus, even though you die - you will have eternal life.
- Even though we die, just as death wasn't the end for Jesus, death won't be the end for us.
- Just as Jesus was raised - we will be raised!
- We can look death straight in the eye - with hopeful expectation of eternal life to come - all because of this Easter day!
- John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
- Death is powerless for those who trust in Jesus!
  
- 1 Cor 15:54-55
  - “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”
- Death is listless. Death has been put to death - for all who trust in him.
  
- Do you want this hope?
  - This certainty? This life-assurance?
- The good news is that it's completely free!
- You can't earn it or work for it...you can't prove yourself worthy of it...
- It's a radical free gift from God.
- Completely undeserved - freely given.
- All that we need to do is ask for it! And it will be given - all because Christ is risen.