

The Event that Changed Everything (Mark 15:40-16:8)

We all have events in our lives that are so monumental, they change everything. Nothing is more central to Christianity than the resurrection of Jesus – it is *the* event that changed everything. If that's true, what exactly does it change for you? We'll explore what was accomplished through it, why it matters for your life, and how, like a final puzzle piece, it brings God's story of love and redemption to completion.

1. The firm conclusion (Mark 15:40-47)

2. The surprise ending (Mark 16:1-8)

3. The new beginning

We've all experienced the unraveling effects of sin and brokenness. Jesus' resurrection is God's answer to that unraveling – how we find restoration and wholeness again.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Mark 15:33-16:8. How did Sunday's Sermon encourage and/or challenge you?
2. Did anything stand out to you in the text itself?
3. Of what fact does Mark want his readers to be sure of in 15:42-45?
4. What does Mark say happened to Jesus' body?
5. What is surprising about the account of Jesus' resurrection?
6. Why is it significant that Jesus rose from the dead?
7. What is the "new beginning" Jesus opened up for us?
8. What questions do you still have? If you're new to this, are you ready to follow Jesus? If you've been a follower, are you in need of renewal? What does "*turning or re-turning*" to Jesus include?
9. We grow the most when we give away what we've received. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus said "Go *make and make disciples of all nations...*" We often want people to believe 3 or 4 points to receive eternal life but the Apostles (and the early church) brought people *to Jesus* (just like The Gospel of Mark does for us). Does this example inspire you? Is there someone in your life – a not yet follower of Jesus, a new follower of Jesus or a follower of Jesus who has recently renewed their faith – that you can come alongside and read the gospel of Mark with?
Go to localchurchstpete.com under "resources" OR to the Church Center App under "resources" and you will find "One to one Bible reading through Mark" and other resources like it.

Turn your reflections into prayer. Thank Jesus for the new beginning he opened up for anyone and everyone who will turn to him in expressed faith and repentance. Ask the Holy Spirit for a renewed passion and joy to follow Jesus. Ask for the resolve to surrender your life to his will.