

# Taught in a Tomb

**Introduction.** We want classrooms (whether they're in school or in our churches) to be fresh, vibrant, and modern because those facilitate learning. In fact, if you search for "classroom design", there are over four and a half billion results! But what about learning lessons in a tomb?

The term "teachable moment" was popularized by Robert Havighurst in 1952, and it continues to circulate in our collective consciences (especially among educators), but can you imagine a teachable moment in a tomb?

Even though Jesus was the Master Teacher, not everything was taught by Him. Some incredibly important lessons were learned by what others said about Him in the most unlikely of settings. This is what we're going to see in Mark 16:1-8 as we look at six statements in that passage.

## ***I. "Do Not Be Alarmed"***

- A. After seeing a young man sitting in the tomb (an angel, Matthew 28:5), Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were struck with amazement.
- B. They didn't believe Jesus' word. He had taught them in at least eight specific instances that He would rise from the dead (John 2:18-19; Matthew 12:38-40; Luke 9:22 [pp. Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31]; Matthew 17:9 [pp. Mark 9:9-10]; Matthew 17:22-23 [pp. Mark 9:31]; John 10:18-19; Matthew 20:17-20; 26:32 [pp. Mark 14:28]). But He kept His word to suffer and then go to glory (Luke 24:25-27).

## ***II. "He Is Risen"***

- A. Jesus was attested by miracles, wonders, and signs (John 5:36; Acts 2:22).
- B. The resurrection was an amazing miracle specifically attested by "many infallible (convincing; not deceptive or unimpeachable) proofs" (Acts 1:1-3; cp. John 20:28-29).

## ***III. "See the Place Where They Laid Him"***

- A. Many people are under the impression that faith inherently doesn't have evidence. If it did, it wouldn't be faith. I've heard Neil deGrasse Tyson say this. But this is a vast oversimplification of the kind of faith God wants His believers to have. Solid evidence and knowledge of facts increase faith.
- B. This type of faith in the resurrection can be strongly established by just considering the circumstantial evidence:
  - 1. The account of the empty tomb is found in all four gospels and is implicit in the early church's proclamation of the resurrection. How could they preach the bodily resurrection of Jesus if everyone in Jerusalem knew that His body was still in the tomb (1 Corinthians 15:6)?
  - 2. Nothing short of the miracle of the resurrection can explain the postresurrection transformation in the disciples. The biblical record indicates that at the time of Jesus' arrest they all fled (Mark 14:50). When the women

reported that they had seen Jesus, the men didn't believe (Luke 24:11), yet these same men were later willing to suffer persecution and martyrdom in order to preach Jesus as the resurrected Lord (cp. Acts 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:6).

3. The social structures that gave the Jews their national identity were incredibly important to them. But within just a few weeks after Jesus was crucified, thousands of Jews gave up animal sacrifices, the keeping of the Law of Moses, the keeping of the Sabbath, and the belief that the Messiah would be a political leader. The fact that an entire community of people were willing to give up treasured beliefs passed down for centuries shows their deep belief in Jesus.

#### **IV. "Go, Tell His Disciples"**

- A. The message needs to be spread. This was the last subject Matthew records of Jesus (28:19-20).
- B. Paul was blessed to be able to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3:8-9). Part of that unsearchableness was wrapped up in the incredible miracle of the resurrection. These riches are more than just something to ponder; they are powerful (Ephesians 3:14-21).

#### **V. "He Is Going Before You ... You Will See Him"**

- A. Any time you deal with Jesus, you deal with hope.
  1. He offered hope for the sinner (Luke 7:50; John 8:11).
  2. He offered hope for the saint (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25).
- B. What our angry, fractured world needs is hope. But hope only exists when we are willing to establish peace with God and walk with Christ (Romans 5:1-2).

#### **VI. "As He Said to You"**

- A. We end where we began. Jesus keeps His word (cp. Mark 14:28), and we'll be judged by His words (John 12:48).
- B. Luke uses a specific word seven times in his gospel (5:5; 8:24 [twice], 45; 9:33, 49; 17:13). In our English versions it's translated as "Master". It's a special word meaning master in charge or one who has the right to give orders.
- C. We listen to Jesus, not because He's the perfect, compassionate, meek Master Teacher, but because He's the one with all authority (Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17). If you want to uphold Him as your Master, then you'd better live like it (Ephesians 4:17, 20-24, 30).

**Conclusion.** Are you living like you've been raised (Colossians 2:12; 3:1)? Jesus is your Redeemer, and the lessons you need were taught in a tomb 2,000 years ago. Listen to them and give in to the Savior's call. Tell us if you're ready today as we sing.

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