

Introduction

In the summer of 1979 I was playing the worst golf of my entire professional career. I had been making some swing changes and nothing was working very well. I was playing like a four handicap rather than a professional. After playing in the Queen Mary Open in Orange County, we drove our 5th-wheel trailer down to San Diego and got ready for the PGA Tour Regional Qualifier. We stayed at the Surf and Turf RV Park in Del Mar, just north of Torrey Pines, where the Qualifier was being held. While I was practicing every day at Torrey Pines, Karen was getting to know some Christian women at the RV Park. One day one of the women told Karen that their group had prayed for me, and that the Lord prophetically told them that I was going to win the tournament. When I came home from practicing that day, Karen told me what the woman had told her. I laughed in unbelief. First, at that junction of my professional career I had never won a tournament. I went on to win thirty-four tournaments as a professional, but at that time of my career I had never won anything. Second, I was playing horribly. The following week during the tournament I did not hit the ball any better; it was army golf: left, right, left, right. But, my putter worked like never before. I made putts from everywhere and only had 107 putts for the four days. The greens at Torrey Pines are very grainy and are difficult to putt. But that was not an issue for me that week; I made putts from everywhere. Even though I did not hit the ball well, I shot 14-under par and won the tournament by four shots. The prophecy that the lady gave Karen was correct. I had not believed the testimony of the women. That left an impression on me that I have never forgotten.

In our text today, on Sunday, the 1st day of the week, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome, went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint the body of Jesus with some spices. He had been crucified and buried and anointing the dead with fragrant spices was a common practice. When they arrived, the stone guarding the tomb had been rolled away and a young man said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen." They had a choice to believe or not believe. The young man told them to go and tell the other disciples and Peter. They fled from the tomb and said nothing to anyone. Then, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. Then, she went to the disciples and reported to them that she had seen Him and that He was alive. The disciples did not believe Mary either. Then Jesus appeared to two disciples walking along their way. These two disciples went to the eleven apostles and the disciples with them, and told them that the Lord had appeared to them. The eleven apostles did not believe their report. Finally, Jesus appeared to the eleven apostles and He reproached them for their unbelief. Today is Resurrection Sunday and the question of the passage is, "Will You Believe?"

Will You Believe

1. Will You Believe The Angels
2. Will You Believe Mary
3. Will You Believe The Two Disciples

(Mark 16:1-14) "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. {2} Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. {3} They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" {4} Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. {5} Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. {6} And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has

been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him. {7} "But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.'" {8} They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. {9} [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. {10} She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. {11} When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it. {12} After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. {13} They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either. {14} Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen."

1. Will You Believe The Angels (Mark 16:1-8)

Our passage begins with Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome buying spices after the Sabbath. The Jews were not allowed to buy or sell anything on the Sabbath. Nobody was allowed to work on the Sabbath. The Jewish day starts at 6:00 p.m. In Genesis 1:5, God called the light day and the darkness, night. "And there was evening and there was morning, one day." So, the Sabbath ended at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. So, this is probably Saturday evening when they went to the bazaar to buy these spices. Then, very early on Sunday morning after the sun had risen they came to the tomb. Now, many churches celebrate sunrise services.

(Mark 16:1-2) "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. {2} Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen."

(Gen 1:5) "God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day."

Once the ladies arrived at the tomb they said to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb. But, once they got to the tomb and looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. This not really a stone, this is more like a boulder. Most scholars believe the stone was about seven feet tall and weighed about 4,000 pounds. It would have taken a number of strong men to roll away the stone. The two ladies went into the tomb and saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe.

(Mark 16:3-5) "They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" {4} Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. {5} Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed."

Mark does not say that the young man was an angel, but in Matthew's account, he gives us a little more information. He said that a severe earthquake had occurred. An angel of the Lord had descended from heaven and rolled away the stone and sat on it. The word angel comes from the Greek word *aggelos*, which means a messenger. This angel had been sent to give these ladies a message. The angel's appearance was like lightning and his clothes were as white as snow. By the time that the ladies got there, the angel was not sitting on the boulder, but was inside the

tomb. Sometimes we picture angels as these great big men, or older men. This angel was a young man. Both accounts tell us that the angel was wearing white.

(Matt 28:2-3) “And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. {3} And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.”

The angel said to the women, “Do not be amazed.” How could they not be amazed. The body of Jesus is missing. The angel was a young man, whose appearance is like lightning, was clothed in a white robe, and was speaking to them. They had to be amazed. Then, the angel told them what they already knew, that they were looking for Jesus. He then told them that Jesus the Nazarene, who had been crucified, “He has risen.” This saying is quoted by people all over the world on Resurrection Day. We say, “He has risen.” The normal response is, “He is risen indeed.” On this particular Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is risen. Then, the young angel told them that He was not there. Of course He was not there. They would have seen Him if He was there. Then, the angel showed them where He had been laid.

(Mark 16:6) “And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, *here is* the place where they laid Him.”

What was the message the angel had been sent to tell them? The angel gave them orders to go tell Jesus’ disciples and Peter. Then, he told them that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee and that they would see Him there, just as Jesus had told them. Jesus had told all of the disciples that He was going to be put to death and that He would rise again. Even though He had declared it many times to them, it never really sunk in to them. Both women went out and fled from the tomb. They were trembling and astonishment had gripped them. They were trembling from fear. Mark records that they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid. They did not go tell the disciples and Peter; they said nothing to anyone.

(Mark 16:7-8) “But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’” {8} They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

It is interesting that the angel tells them to tell Peter and the other disciples. Peter was the leader and spokesperson for the other disciples. But, that is not why Peter is specifically mentioned. Peter has just denied Christ three times. When the rooster crowed and Peter realized that he had denied Jesus three times, he left the scene weeping. Jesus is going to restore Peter by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus is going to go to Galilee and restore Peter. God was not done with Peter. God had great plans for this apostle. He sent an angel to Mary Magdalene and told her to tell Peter and the disciples to go to Galilee and that Jesus would meet them there. We find the account of Peter being restored in John 21. Peter denied Jesus three times and when Jesus restored him, He asked him three times if he loved Him. God was intentional and planned this out.

(Mark 14:72) “Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had made the remark to him, “Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he began to weep.”

We all mess up at times. Peter messed up, but God restored Him. God had plans for Peter, just as He has plans for you. If you feel that you have let God down, be assured that God wants to restore you and use you. Confess your sins, receive forgiveness, and get involved again.

How many of you have seen an angel? Some may have seen an angel and knew it. Some may have seen an angel and did not realize it. In Hebrews 13:2 we are exhorted to show hospitality to strangers. Then, we are told that by showing hospitality to strangers some have entertained angels without knowing it. So, some of you may have entertained an angel and did not even know it. But, most people that have seen angels have been astonished and full of fear. However, in most cases where angels appeared to people, they have been afraid. For example, in Luke 2:9, an angel appeared to the shepherds to declare the birth of Christ, and Luke records that they were terribly frightened.

(Heb 13:2) “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

(Luke 2:9) “And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.”

In Daniel 10, Gabriel appeared to Daniel and put his hand on him. Daniel records that it set him trembling on his hands and knees. He told Daniel to stand up and he stood up trembling. Then, Gabriel told him, “Do not be afraid.” Angelic encounters very often cause amazement, fear, and trembling. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Salome and James are no exceptions. They were afraid and trembling over this angelic encounter.

(Dan 10:10-12) “Then behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. {11} He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. {12} Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding *this* and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.”

Even though they were afraid and trembling, Matthew records that they left the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. They had both fear and joy. They were full of fear and trembling because of this angelic encounter. They were also full of joy over the message that they had just heard. Out of great joy, they ran to report it to the disciples, which is exactly what the angel had told them to do. The question is, “Did they believe the angel?” Yes, without a doubt, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome believed.

(Matt 28:8) “And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.”

If an angel came to you and told you that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead, would you believe the angel? In Luke 1:18-20, God sent a message to Zacharias, the father of John, and he did not believe. In Luke 1:38, God sent a message to Mary, the mother of Jesus and she believed. In Matthew 1:20-25, God sent an angel to Joseph and told him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. The angel told him that she had been impregnated by the Holy Spirit. He believed the angel and kept her a virgin until after the birth of Christ. We have examples of people who

believed and who did not believe the word of an angel. The women had brought spices to the grave. They were obviously not expecting the grave to be empty. Something happened at the tomb. The question for us this Resurrection Sunday is, do we believe the word of the angel? Do we believe that “He is risen.” Do you believe that He is risen?

(Luke 1:18-20) “Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this *for certain*? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years." {19} The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. {20} "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

(Luke 1:38) “And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.”

(Matt 1:20-25) “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. {21} She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." {22} Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: {23} "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." {24} And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, {25} but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.”

2. Will You Believe Mary (Mark 16:9-11)

After Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome, saw the angel, they fled and did not tell anyone of their encounter with the angel. Mark records that the Lord appeared to Mary Magdalene. It would seem like this is happening much later and that Mary, the mother of James, and Salome were not with her.

(Mark 16:8-9) “They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. {9} [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.”

However, when we read Matthew’s account, we see that they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them while they were on the way to report it to Jesus’ disciples. Jesus appeared to all three of these women, not just to Mary Magdalene. In Luke, we find that some women had come to Jesus out of Galilee. Mary Magdalene is from Magdala, on the southwest side of the Sea of Galilee. In Luke 24:10 we find that Joanna is also with them. Joanna and Mary Magdalene traveled together a lot with the disciples. So, there are at least four women at the tomb, not just three. In both the Old and New Testament every fact was to be confirmed by two or three witnesses (Deut 17:6, 19:15, Matt 18:16). There were four witnesses to His appearing, giving their testimony credibility and legality. They came up and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him.

(Matt 28:8-10) “And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. {9} And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. {10} Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."

(Luke 23:55-24:10) “Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. {24:10} Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the *mother* of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.”

Mark wrote that they went and reported to those who had been with Him, that is, His apostles. Matthew recorded that Jesus told them not to be afraid and to take word to His brethren to leave for Galilee where they would see Him. Many of the apostles were fishermen from Galilee. Jesus had called many of them while they were fishing. Jesus had made His home in Capernaum, on the northwest side of Galilee. So, it is only logical that they would have returned to their home town in Galilee. Mary went to the brethren and found them mourning and weeping. John tells us that Mary Magdalene went to the disciples and announced that she had seen the Lord, and that He had said these things to her. She faithfully delivered the word that Jesus had given her for them.

(Mark 16:10) “She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.”

(John 20:18) “Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and *that* He had said these things to her.”

When she told them that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they refused to believe it. This is a woman who traveled with their group. This is a woman who had contributed to Jesus’ ministry. This is a woman that they knew and trusted, yet they would not believe her.

(Mark 16:11) “When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.”

The question is, “Will You Believe?” Perhaps they did not believe her because of her past reputation. Perhaps they did not believe her because she had been demonized. Mark records that she had seven demons cast out of her. I don’t believe that either of these are the reason that they did not believe. In verse 14, Mark gives the reason that they did not believe. They had hardness of heart. Hardness of heart can prevent us from believing. The opposite of a hard heart is a soft and humble heart. I believe we are to receive the word with humility of heart. How is your heart this morning? Will you believe?

(Mark 16:14b) “...and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.”

3. Will You Believe The Disciples (Mark 16:12-14)

Mark records that He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. Luke shares in depth about these two men in Luke 24:13-35. They

were on their way to Emmaus when Jesus joined them. Jesus acted like He did not know what they were talking about and asked them what they were discussing.

(Mark 16:12-13) “After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. {13} They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.”

(Luke 24:13-24) “And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. {14} And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place. {15} While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and *began* traveling with them. {16} But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. {17} And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad. {18} *One of them*, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?" {19} And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, {20} and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. {21} "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. {22} "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning, {23} and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. {24} "Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see.”

After they had told Jesus all about how they had hoped that Jesus was the Redeemer and how the women had amazed them by telling them that Jesus was alive, Jesus responded to them. He said, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to die and then be raised from the dead in three days. He had taught them the Scriptures pertaining to this, but they had not grasped and believed the Scriptures. Then, after they arrived at Emmaus and had eaten with Jesus, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. Then, He vanished from their sight. Even though it was evening and not the time to be going out on the road, they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven apostles and said, “The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then they shared their experience with them.

(Luke 24:25-35) “And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! {26} "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" {27} Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. {28} And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. {29} But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is *getting* toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. {30} When He had reclined *at the table* with them, He took the bread and blessed *it*, and breaking *it*, He *began* giving *it* to them. {31} Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. {32} They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?" {33} And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered

together the eleven and those who were with them, {34} saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon." {35} They *began* to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread."

All that we saw in Mark was that Jesus appeared in form to two of them and that the apostles did not believe them either. The apostles heard the testimony of the four women. The disciples heard the testimony of the two, and the explanation of all the scriptures, and they did not believe.

(Mark 16:12-13) "After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. {13} They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either."

Our passage ends with Jesus appearing to the eleven as they were reclining at the table. Jesus does not give them an "Attaboy!" Jesus reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

(Mark 16:14) "Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at the table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen."

Jesus appeared to His apostles more than once. The first time He appeared, Thomas was not with them. However, in our text today, which is the second time He appeared to them, they were all together. Let's look briefly at the other account in John 20:24-29. Thomas, one of the twelve was not with them when Jesus came. The disciples told Thomas that they had seen the Lord, but he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Eight days later the Lord appeared to all eleven of them, which is our text today in Mark. Jesus had Thomas put His hand on His side, and told him not to be unbelieving, but believing. Thomas responded by saying, "My Lord and my God!" By the way, if Jesus was not God, Jesus would have corrected Thomas, but He did not correct him for that. He simply said, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

(John 20:24-29) "But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. {25} So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." {26} After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace *be* with you." {27} Then He *said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." {28} Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" {29} Jesus *said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed."

When people share some things with me that I find difficult to believe, I go to the Scriptures. How does this line up with the Scriptures? The apostles had testimonies, and they also had prophecies given and explained in advance. The apostles had fulfilled prophecies explained. The apostles had the testimonies and the Scriptures, yet they did not believe. That is why Jesus reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart.

When people tell me about healings, I have no problem believing. I see them in Scripture and I believe we are to pray for the sick. I have seen God miraculously heal a number of people of different things when I have prayed for them. I have seen big things, like people with cancer healed, or women who could not bear children get pregnant. I have also seen lots of little things like hiccups instantly go away. This lines up with the Scriptures. But, some of the things I hear don't line up too well with what I see in the Scriptures. I struggle with believing some of those things. We need discernment and we need to use the Scriptures. At the same time, we don't want to be slow of heart or hard of heart and not believe the testimonies that we hear.

Conclusion and Applications

The question this morning is do you believe? Do you believe the testimony of the angels? The women went to the tomb with aromatic spices. They believed they would see the corpse of Jesus. Instead, Jesus was not there and the angels told them that He had risen. They were frightened, but they believed. Something happened at the tomb in their encounter with the angels and they became believers.

The women went to the disciples, and they did not believe. Even though there were four women who gave a testimony, they did not believe. Do you believe the legal testimony of the four women? Do you believe the testimony of the two men that were on the road to Emmaus? Do you believe the testimony of the eleven apostles? Ten of the eleven apostles that He appeared to died as martyrs for their faith. They would not have died as martyrs unless they believed.

I want to close with one more passage. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Paul shares the gospel message. He tells them that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. We have the testimony of the Word of God, which is inerrant and true. Next, Paul shares that Jesus appeared to Peter and to the other apostles. We have the testimony of the twelve apostles. Then, Paul shares that Jesus appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, and at the time that Paul wrote this second letter to the Corinthian church, most of them were still alive.

(1 Cor 15:3-6) "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. {6} After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep."

The question for you this morning is, "Will you believe?" This morning, if you have never placed your faith in Jesus Christ, and you DO believe that Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, let me invite you to pray with me this morning. "Father God, I do believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. I believe that He died for my sins according to the Scriptures. I believe that He was buried, and that You raised Him from the dead on the third day. I ask You, Jesus, to come into my life and to forgive me of my sins. I now confess You as my Lord and Savior. I want to follow You and serve You the rest of my life. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

We are going to have a brief time of Questions and Answers. Then we will have one final song, and I will dismiss us.

Introduction (Mark 16:1-14)

- 1. Will You Believe The Angels** (Mark 16:1-8, Gen 1:5, Matt 28:2-3, Mark 14:72, Heb 13:2, Luke 2:9, Dan 10:10-12, Matt 28:8, Luke 1:18-20, 1:38, Matt 1:20-25)

- 2. Will You Believe Mary** (Mark 16:8-11, Luke 24:10, Deut 17:6, 19:15, Matt 18:16, Matt 28:8-10, Luke 23:55-24:10, John 20:18, Mark 16:14b)

- 3. Will You Believe The Disciples** (Mark 16:12-14, Luke 24:13-35, John 20:24-29)

Conclusion and Applications (1 Cor 15:3-6)