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Mark 16:1-14

1. “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 alone 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.”

In this account of Jesus’ resurrection and subsequent appearance on the day of His resurrection, we find the eleven chosen apostles having great difficulty believing that Jesus had actually risen from the dead in bodily form.

Initially the women who went to the tomb on the morning of the resurrection were gripped with fear and said nothing to anyone.

When Mary Magdalene contacted the apostles and reported that Jesus was alive, they “refused to believe it.” (verse 11)

Next, two disciples on their way to Emmaus that afternoon were contacted by Jesus. After Jesus revealed Himself to them, they ran back to Jerusalem and reported

to the apostles. The Scripture records that “they did not believe them either.”

Later that evening, Jesus Himself appeared to the eleven. Jesus reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed the report of others. In this way Jesus had his chosen apostles experience for themselves the difficulty people would have in believing that He rose bodily from the dead after three days.

How about you? Do you truly believe that Jesus arose bodily from the tomb, having been dead for three days?

And if you so believe, are you patiently witnessing to the fact of the resurrection to others who are having difficulty believing, or even refusing to believe, in the bodily resurrection of Jesus?