

You Just Can't Keep this Good News to Yourself

(498 words)

This post is adapted from Kathy Howard's new devotional "Deep-Rooted: Growing through the Gospel of Mark."

When I was a child, our church always held a sunrise service on Easter. When it was still dark, Mom dressed me in my frilly new dress and Mary Janes. Then we traveled the two blocks to church to sit in metal folding chairs in the parking lot. I can still feel the cold metal on the back of my bare legs and see my white shoes and short lacy socks hovering above the asphalt. The rows of chairs faced east so we could watch the sun rise as we worshipped. Thus, the name "sun rise service..."

One hymn in particular stands out in my memory. As the sun began to make its appearance, we sang the first short verse of "Low in the Grave He Lay" so somberly it sounded like a death dirge. *Low in the grave He lay – Jesus my Savior. Waiting the coming day – Jesus my Lord...* Then we hit the chorus with vigor and joy. *Up from the grave He arose! With a mighty triumph o'er His foes!* Even as a young girl, in that song I sensed the grief of the crucifixion flow into the joy of the resurrection. Grief and loss surprised by the miraculous. This is what the women who followed Jesus experienced two thousand Easters ago.

The women had been waiting since Friday evening to go to Jesus. The Law prevented them from anointing His body on the Sabbath, but when the sun set on Saturday evening, they purchased the needed spices. They were prepared. Then, as soon as it was possible, as soon as the sun lifted above the eastern horizon on Sunday morning, the women walked to the tomb.

Grief shrouded that journey. They believed their hope for salvation lay dead. But the tomb was open. And the angel's announcement offered an end to their mourning.

And he said to them, "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. Mark 16:6, ESV

The joy of Easter pushed out the grief of Good Friday. After the women recovered from the shock, they carried this Good News to the disciples. *He has risen!* This glorious declaration, first spoken by an angel on that first Easter Sunday, is still joyfully proclaimed by believers today. *He has risen! He has risen indeed!*

Without the resurrection, the Gospel is not complete. The resurrection of Jesus proves that His death was sufficient to provide forgiveness of sins. The resurrection proves that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be. The resurrection defeated sin and death and assures us that one day His followers will also rise to spend eternity with Christ.

What will you do with the news of Christ's resurrection? Will you reject the hope of an eternity with Jesus? Or, will you receive it joyfully and share this life-changing truth with others?

Kathy Howard

A former “cultural Christian,” Kathy Howard now has a passion for God’s Word that’s contagious. With more than 30 years of experience, Kathy has taught in dozens of states, internationally, and in a wide range of venues including multi-church conferences and large online events. She has a Masters of Christian Education from the Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary. Kathy is the author of 10 books, including the new “meaty” devotional *Deep-Rooted: Growing through the Gospel of Mark*. She writes for multiple online magazines and devotional sites. Kathy and her husband live in the Dallas/Ft Worth area near family. They have three married children, five grandchildren, and two accidental dogs. Kathy provides free discipleship resources and blogs regularly at www.KathyHoward.org. She also connects with women at [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Instagram](#).

ⁱ <https://hymnary.org/hymn/NCH1929/81>, accessed August 21, 2020, 11:00am, song in public domain.