

Sunday, April 15th



- Who are the Myrrh-Bearing women?
- Why were they going to Jesus' tomb?
- 3. What did the angel tell the women to do?

Praying Together:

Lord Jesus,

The Myrrh-Bearing Women were dedicated to You, even after Your death. Because of this, they were the first to learn of Your Resurrection. Help us to follow You, even when it gets hard, and share the good news of Your Resurrection to others.

Amen.

Parents' Cheat Sheet - Car Qs

Apr. 15/18, Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women (2nd Sunday after Easter)

- 1. Who are the Myrrh-Bearing Women?
 - 1. The Myrrh-Bearing women are a group of dedicated followers of Jesus.⁷
 - 2. They followed Jesus from Galilee all the way to Jerusalem and watched the crucifixion from afar.
 - 3. The names of the women somewhat vary, depending on which Gospel account one reads, though Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all four Gospels. In Mark, the other women he mentions are Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Luke also mentions Mary the mother of James, as well as Joanna and the other women, meaning that others were with them. In addition of Mary Magdalene, Matthew speaks of "the other Mary," though whether he's referring to Mary the mother of James, like Luke and Mark, Mary from Bethany (Lazarus' sister), or even Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, we don't quite know.⁸
- 2. Why were they going to Jesus' tomb?
 - 1. The women were going to the tomb to anoint his body with spices, a completion of the burial ritual of the day.
 - 2. Because Jesus died on the Preparation Day just before the Sabbath, which was a "high day," the body had to be removed from the cross and buried quickly, as no work could be done on the Sabbath. As a result, all the rituals could not be performed because there wasn't enough time before the Sabbath.
 - 3. According to Luke's Gospel, however, "the women who had come with [Jesus] from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment." ¹⁰
- 3. What did the angel tell the women to do?
 - 1. The angel told the women to go to the Jesus' disciples and tell them that He had risen from the dead. 11
 - 2. In Mark's original Gospel¹², however, they "went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." ¹³

⁷ The Interpreter's Bible discusses just how dedicated these women were to Jesus: "They loved Jesus beyond the end." p. 911.

⁸ John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12; Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-8

⁹ It was Passover. John 19:31

¹⁰ Luke 23: 55-56, The Orthodox Study Bible, p. 1414.

¹¹ Mark 16:6-7

¹² Many people generally accept that the original end of Mark's Gospel finished at 16:8, which makes for a pretty bleak ending, though *The Interpeter's Bible* simply calls the ending "unfinished," which is fitting as the story continues through each of Jesus' followers today (p.917). Mark 16:9-20, the 'added' part of Mark's Gospel, gives a more uplifting ending to the Gospel, more in line with the other three Gospels.

¹³ Mark 16:8