**Sermon Notes**

**“The Empty Tomb: A Fool’s Hope?”**

**Mark 16:1–8**

**1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’ ” 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.**

*Are we fools to believe that genuine, life-giving, destiny-altering hope exists?*

**Acts 2:22–24**

**22 “Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.**

**Acts 3:15**

**15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.**

**Acts 3:19**

**19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord**

*Genuine, life-giving, destiny-altering hope exists…but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**1 Peter 1:3**

**3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!**

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most striking or memorable aspect of this message for you?

2. How does the resurrection of Jesus challenge the idea that all religions basically teach the same thing and simply offer different paths to God?

3. As you listened, what relationships, life experiences, or circumstances came to mind? Why?

4. What “dead and buried” things in your life do you want to see brought back to life? How does the hope of Jesus’ resurrection encourage or challenge you with regard to this hope?

5. Why do you think we are told the women who first heard the news of Jesus’ resurrection were *afraid*? Why was their first reaction fear and not excitement? What is your reaction in hearing this news?

6. What is promised to those who turn to Jesus for salvation (i.e. rescue) in Acts 3:19? Why do some people continue to live in rejection of God and Christ in spite of this promise?