

**SPEAKER:** Ryan Lingbloom

**DATE:** April 5, 2026

**SERIES TITLE:** Defining Moments

## **Sermon Title**

**LIFE**

### **Introduction**

This week, we finished our series called **Defining Moments**. Throughout the Gospel of Mark, we see story after story of ordinary people encountering Jesus and having to make real, everyday decisions about who Jesus is and what He calls them to. These moments **define** these people, as their lives get changed when they encounter the King. Through this series, we've unpacked these **Defining Moments** in the Gospel of Mark and how our own **Defining Moments** with Jesus shape our lives today.

**Seek the Word:** Before discussing this week's questions, read through Mark 16:1-8 out loud as a group. What stands out to you from this passage?

**LIFE**

*What would you say is the most defining moment in your life? How did that moment change everything for you, and how did it impact your life past that point?*

- **The Stone is Rolled Away**
  - The women in Mark 16 ask a very simple, yet important question: "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" They needed someone/something to remove this obstacle that was stopping them from getting to Jesus. What is the "stone" that gets in your way of getting to Jesus?
  - When the women arrive at the tomb, they see that the stone is already rolled away. Has there ever been a time where some incomprehensible, way too big obstacle has been removed from your life seemingly without explanation? What are the chances that was God making the way to Him much clearer for you?
  
- **The Tomb is Empty**
  - The angel at the tomb called Jesus "the Nazarene, who was crucified", making clear to the women and to us that the crucifixion is an essential part of the story. During the Easter season, do you find yourself wanting to rush past the crucifixion to get to the resurrection? Why or why not?
  - Take some time as a group to define what the gospel is. If someone were to ask you, "How does all this Jesus stuff work?", how would you answer them?
  
- **The King Has Risen**
  - *Christianity rises and falls on one question:* Did Jesus rise from the dead? If you believe that He did, are you living like He is alive? What does that mean for you? If you don't believe that He did, what is/are your holdups?
  - **The resurrection of Jesus demands a response.** Take some time to think, and then share with the group what you think God is saying your response needs to be today.

## Wrap Up

*Reminder:* **The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most defining moment in all of human history.** There is no moment that carries more weight, that changes more lives, that confronts, convicts, and comforts us more than the empty tomb. Because of this, the resurrection of Jesus demands a response. It necessitates a decision to be made. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have to make a decision about what to do with Him and with our lives. And the hope of the resurrection is the security that comes when we surrender ourselves to God and receive the salvation He offers. Everything changes in that **defining moment**.

*Prayer:* Close your time together by giving thanks and praise to God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Celebrate our risen Savior, who frees us from sin and death and offers us new life. Ask that God would continue to use the resurrection to challenge you and confront you to constant pursuit of Jesus. Pray for those who have not decided about Jesus yet, and for those who have decided against Jesus, that their hearts would be softened and opened to the truth of the cross and the empty tomb and what those **defining moments** mean for them.