

- If it's true that Jesus is alive, what else is true?
- If Jesus is alive—am I now new?
- If the stone was rolled away, what else can Jesus roll away?
- What does it mean for death to be defeated?
- Are my sins extended from the east to west?
- If Jesus rose again, what does it mean for me?



2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Jesus is alive! And He is making EVERYTHING NEW. That includes me and you!

Revelation 21:4-5

He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

This is what Easter is a laocut. The resurrection makes everything new.

But not everybody really understands what Easter means, and what it means TO US.

I want to take you back to Thursday night...



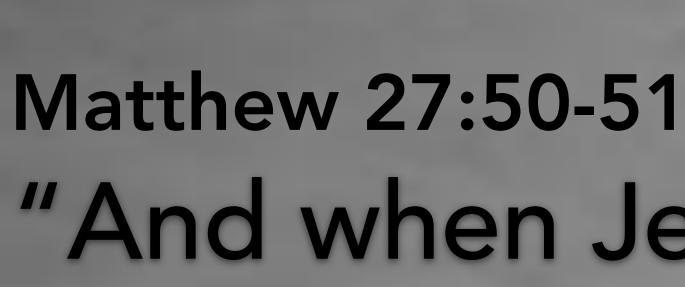


Then everyone deserted Him and fled.

On Thursday night of Holy Week, the disciples were beyond ruined.

They were confused, afraid, filled with doubt & broken.





"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom."

What does this mean?

This means that we have DIRECT ACCESS to God.

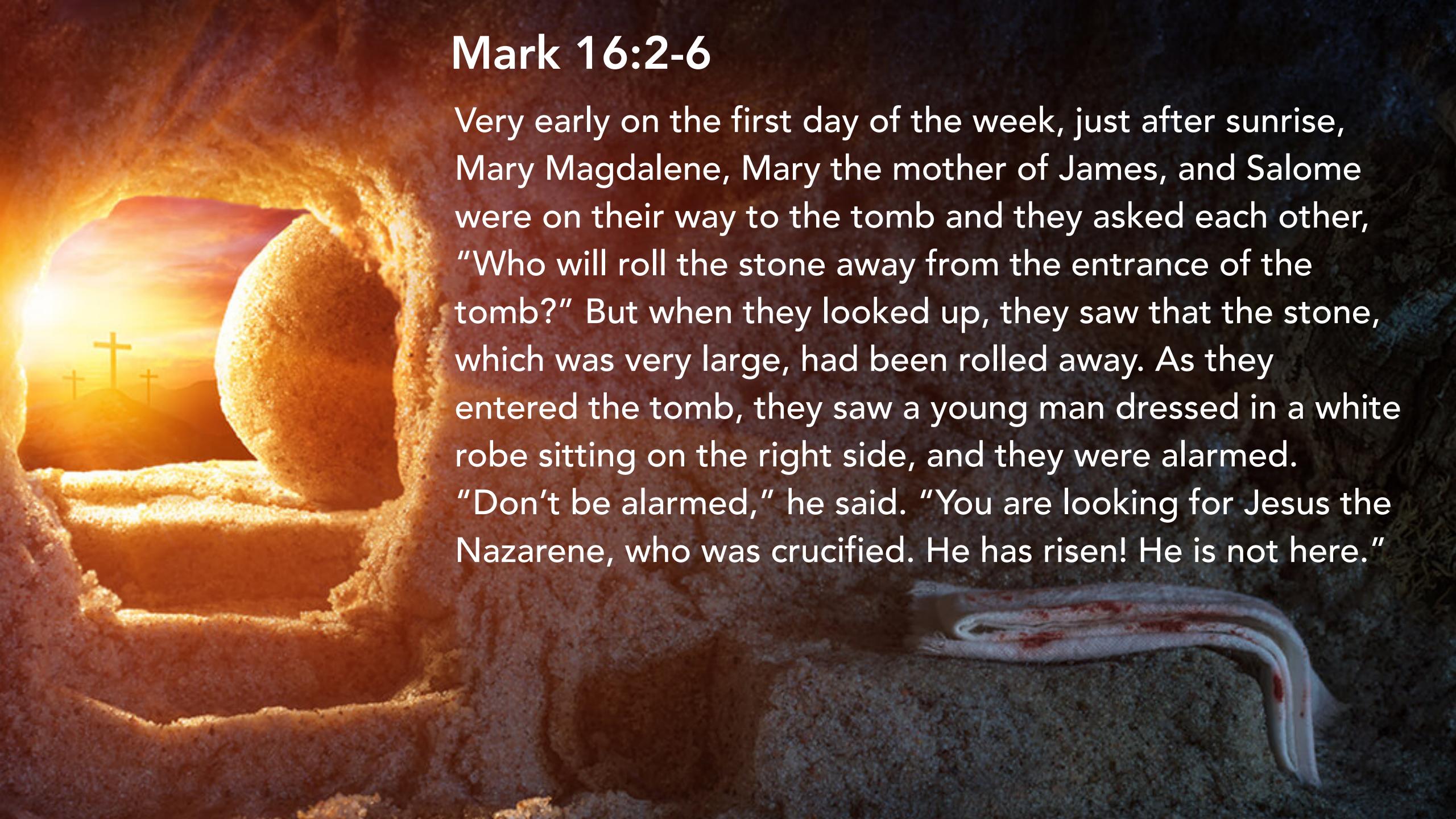
At any time. No matter what.

Hebrews 10:19-22

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience..."

The blood of Christ washes clean all our sin. The door is opened for us to stand before God.

And then came Sunday!



Remember the disciples...

On Thursday night they were devastated, confused and broken.

And then the resurrection.

The disciples didn't dream up the resurrection. They didn't make a group decision to lie about the empty tomb.

Jesus came back to life. And His resurrection changes everything.

For them. And for us.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

God wants to work in our lives in new ways.

God wants to work in our lives in new ways. The question is... How?



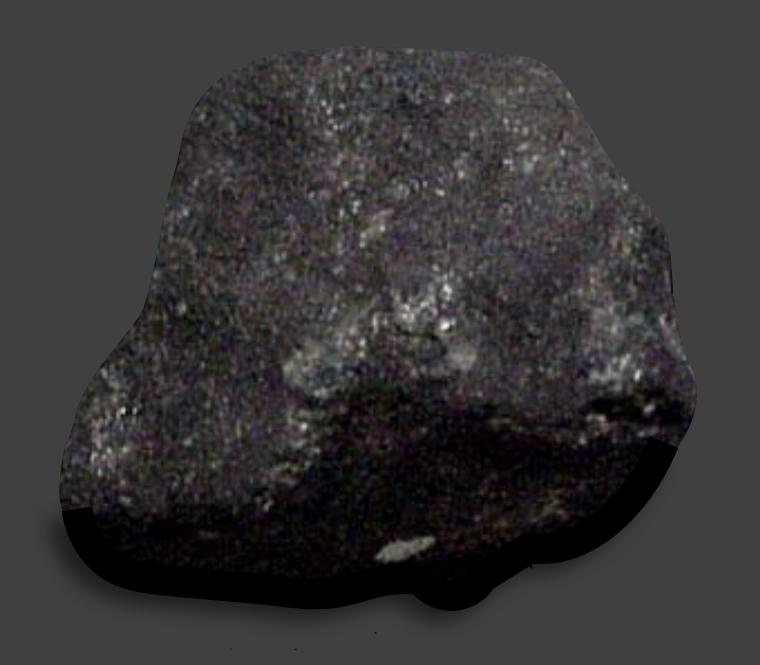
God has a way of using what's left.

After the fire.

Just because things will never be the same as they were, we can't forget that God makes all things new. It may never be what it was —exactly like it was but He makes all things new.

God is gracious, even in the midst of our pain. He's the God of what we've lost, and the God of what we have left.

God uses burnt stones.



Nehemiah 2

Nehemiah 4:2

"Can they bring the stones back to life from those heaps of rubble burned as they are?"





God makes all things new by <u>using</u> the parts of our lives that have gone through the fire. He wants to use whatever struggle and grief and pain you are experiencing today to create something BRAND NEW.

What God asks us to do is to trust Him. To open our hearts and believe. To confess our need, and ask for His help.

Open your heart to God. Give Him your burnt stones.

Lord, we surrender ourselves to you. Even the pain. We ask you to please do something new.

