

## The Empty Tomb

Mark 16:1-8

- » A 'triptych' – a work of art that is divided into 3 sections – 3 carved panels that are hinged together
- » Can be folded hut or displayed open
- » Our story reads as a triptych

### Panel One:

The Women Go to the Tomb  
Mark 16:1-8

- » The scene opens with 3 women buying spices at the market – spices to anoint Jesus' dead body
- » A contemplative, somber, thoughtful, tense mood (Saturday evening)

- » Early Sunday morning they travel to the tomb – likely outside the city walls
- » Travelling with concerned hearts – Who will move the stone away? – no sense of anticipation

### Our Concerned Hearts

- » We hear the Easter message but we still travel with our concerns and fears
- » We travel with our attachments

### Arriving at the Tomb

- » The stone has already been removed
- » God goes before us into our areas of concern
- » He is already in the midst of the situation you fear

### Panel Two:

The Women in the Tomb  
Mark 16:5-7

- » The women enter the tomb, see a young man (angel) sitting where Jesus lay and are amazed.
- » The angel responds with, "Do not be distressed!"

### A Four-fold Message

- i. You seek Jesus the Nazarene
- ii. Who was crucified
- iii. He has been raised (passive voice)
- iv. He is not here – look where he lay (empty)

### A Commission Given

- » Go and tell the disciples that Jesus goes ahead to Galilee, there they will meet him
- » A message of hope even after their failure

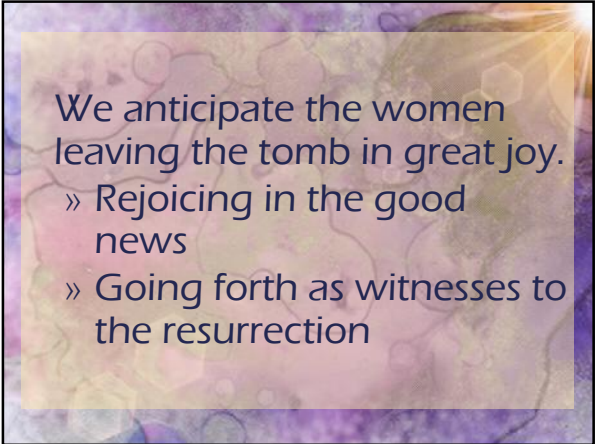
### Our Galilee - Our Commission

- » Jesus awaits us in our Galilee (our everyday)
- » Jesus commissions us – live out your life of faith with me even after our many failures

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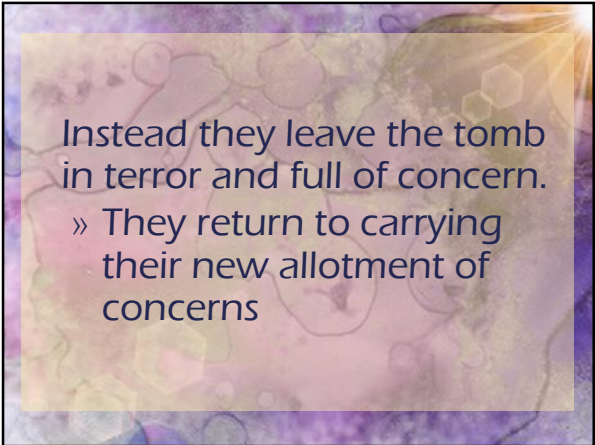
**Panel Three:**

The Women Leave the Tomb  
Mark 16:8

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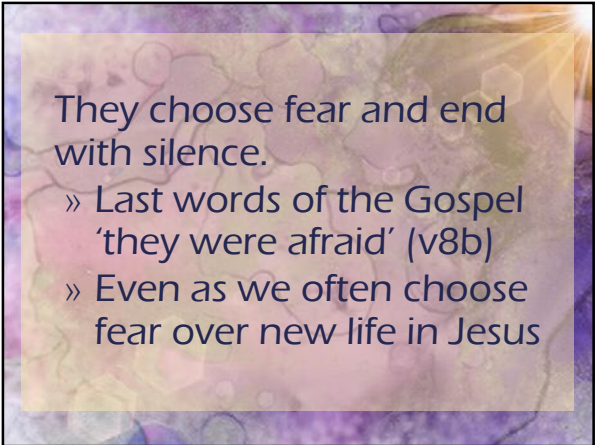
We anticipate the women leaving the tomb in great joy.

- » Rejoicing in the good news
- » Going forth as witnesses to the resurrection

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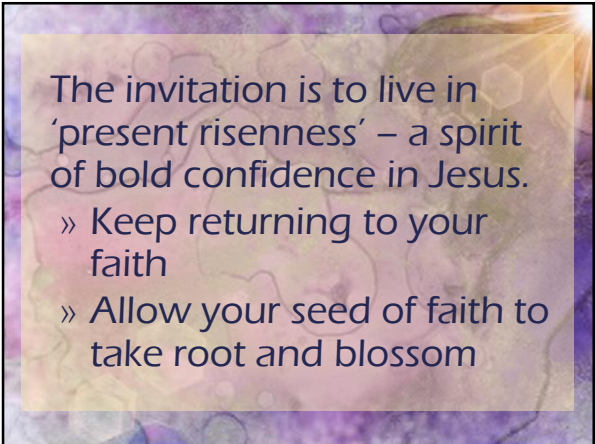
Instead they leave the tomb in terror and full of concern.

- » They return to carrying their new allotment of concerns

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They choose fear and end with silence.

- » Last words of the Gospel 'they were afraid' (v8b)
- » Even as we often choose fear over new life in Jesus

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The invitation is to live in 'present risenness' – a spirit of bold confidence in Jesus.

- » Keep returning to your faith
- » Allow your seed of faith to take root and blossom