

# Mark 16:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

## Analysis

**A young man sitting on the right side** (νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, neaniskon kathēmenon en tois dexiois)—Mark calls him a "young man" though other gospels identify him as an angel (Matthew 28:5, Luke 24:4). His position **on the right side** indicates honor and authority. **Clothed in a long white garment** (περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκήν) signifies heavenly glory—white garments mark divine messengers and eschatological victory.

**They were affrighted** (έξεθαμβήθησαν, exethambēthēsan)—Mark's characteristic term for overwhelming astonishment mixed with fear. This terror before the angelic herald prepares for their even greater fear at the resurrection message itself (v.8). The women sought a dead Jesus but encountered the ambassadors of the Living One.

## Historical Context

Angels at crucial moments in Jesus' story frame Mark's gospel (announced birth in Matthew/Luke, ministered after temptation in Mark 1:13, now announce resurrection). White-robed figures appear throughout Scripture at divine visitations (Daniel 7:9, Revelation 4:4). First-century readers would recognize this as a theophanic appearance.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why does encountering God's messengers produce fear rather than mere curiosity or comfort?
2. How does the angel's "sitting" position (confident, restful) contrast with the women's frantic urgency?
3. What does it mean to seek Jesus in a tomb (among the dead) rather than expecting resurrection life?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον

And entering into the sepulchre they saw a young man

καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς περιβεβλημένον στολὴν

sitting on the right side clothed garment

λευκήν καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν

in a long white And they were affrighted

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 28:3** (Parallel theme): His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

**John 20:8** (Parallel theme): Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

