

# Mark 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

## Analysis

**They fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed** (ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου, εἶχεν γὰρ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, ephygon apo tou mnēmeiou, eichen gar autas tromos kai ekstasis)—tromos (trembling) and ekstasis (ecstatic astonishment) capture holy terror before the supernatural. **Neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid**—most ancient manuscripts end Mark here abruptly at φοβοῦντο γάρ ("for they were afraid"), creating interpretive challenges.

This shocking ending fits Mark's theme: following Jesus leads not to triumphalism but to awe, fear, and mystery. The women's silence wasn't disobedience but being overwhelmed—the good news was too great to process immediately. Mark's original readers knew the story didn't end here (the gospel itself proves the news spread!), but the abrupt finale forces reflection on how we respond to resurrection reality.

## Historical Context

Textual criticism debates whether Mark intended to end at v.8 or whether the original ending was lost. Verses 9-20 appear in later manuscripts but differ stylistically. Many scholars see v.8 as Mark's deliberate ending—raw, unpolished, leaving readers confronting the resurrection's terrifying joy. Early Christians faced this same fear preaching a crucified and risen Lord.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. Why does genuine encounter with the resurrection produce fear alongside joy?
2. How does Mark's abrupt ending challenge comfortable, triumphalistic faith?
3. Have you ever been so overwhelmed by God's work that words failed—and what did that teach you?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ταχὺ ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου  
And they went out quickly and fled from the sepulchre  
G2532 G1831 G5035 G5343 G3588 G3419

εἶχεν δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις· καὶ οὐδὲν  
they trembled for G846 G5156 And were amazed And any thing  
G2192 G1161 G2532 G1611 G2532 G3762

οὐδὲν εἶπον, ἐφοβοῦντο γὰρ  
any thing said they they were afraid man for  
G3762 G2036 G5399 G1063

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 28:8** (Parallel theme): And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

**Luke 24:37** (Parallel theme): But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

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