



Easter Sunday April 5th, 2026
Ross Macdonald
**Disruptive JESUS:
Trembling, Bewildered, & Afraid**
Mark 16:1-8

Trembling and **bewildered**, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were **afraid**.
Mark 16:8

God works with & through our fears

'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. **He has risen! He is not here.** See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and **Peter**, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you."
Mark 16:6-7

God can deal with our failures.

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:5

Jesus told them, "You're all going to feel that your world is falling apart and that it's my fault. There's a Scripture that says,
I will strike the shepherd;
The sheep will scatter.
"But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee."
Mark 14:27-28 MSG

Peter blurted out, "Even if everyone else is ashamed of you when things fall to pieces, I won't be."
Jesus said, "Don't be so sure. Today, this very night in fact, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."
He blustered in protest, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you."
All the others said the same thing.
Mark 14:29-31 MSG

The resurrection of Jesus: The ultimate disruption.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, **and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Romans 1:1-4

Jesus is always moving ahead of us.

There is a blank at the end of the story, and we are invited to fill it ourselves. Do we take Easter for granted, or have we found ourselves awestruck at the strange new work of God? What do we know of the risen Lord? Where is he now going ahead of us? What tasks has he for us to undertake today, to take 'the gospel of the kingdom' to the ends of the earth?
N.T. Wright

For the Good News must first be preached to all nations.
Mark 13:10 NLT

Serve the Lord with fear
and celebrate his rule with trembling.
Psalm 2:11

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