

# Do Not Be Alarmed

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.

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## INTRODUCTION

We learned about two main themes in the sermon:

1. There are different types of crisis and they can lead to different places.
  - a. Types mentioned included: providential, mysterious, persecution, satanic, empathetic, and apocalyptic.
  - b. Crisis can lead to self-destruction or spiritual victory.
  - c. Crisis can lead to fear, confusion and/or isolation.
2. God's response to crisis is resurrection, and it serves as a tool.
  - a. Do not be alarmed.
  - b. Crisis is useless if you fail to seek God in the middle.
  - c. Our purpose in life is to know God and to share Him.

## STARTER QUESTION

(Read Mark 16:4-18) Five instances in Mark point to examples of providing life where there is death: Stones were rolled away, Jesus went before us, He focused on each of us individually, He calmed fears and provided hope, and He gave purpose through command. Which example do you relate to most and why?

## INTO THE WORD

(Read Isaiah 43:1 and Jeremiah 1:5) How can the listed scriptures encourage us to know that God cares for each of us individually? Can you share the instances in your life where you experienced God in a very personal way?

(Read Act 7:9) Joseph's story was used as an example of providential crisis. Can you think of an example in your life or others where a crisis was used as a tool for God's ultimate good?

(Read Luke 3:19-20) Silence was listed as a form of isolation created by crisis. Clearly, John the Baptist had to know that there was risk involved in scolding Herod the tetrarch. If John had remained silent would he have avoided a crisis, or did he create one by speaking out? Discuss this in the context of the types of crisis mentioned above.

## APPLICATION

Our purpose in life is to know God and to share Him. Give an example of how we can do this in the coming weeks. Sharing Him is especially challenging given current events. How can we endeavor to share Him despite recent challenges?

Rolling stones away is a powerful metaphor for how God works in our life. Can you think of an example in your life or someone close to you where God has rolled a stone away? Have you ever "rolled a stone away" for someone to share God?

## **PRAYER**

Father, when we break away from people in crisis, we cause isolation. Help us to see you in the middle of our own crises. Thank you for bringing life where there is death. Help us to do the same for others around us. Help us not to be alarmed. We pray in the name of the resurrected Jesus. Amen.