



# Three Appearances

and the Problem of Unbelief

# Unbelief in America

## Supreme Court rulings

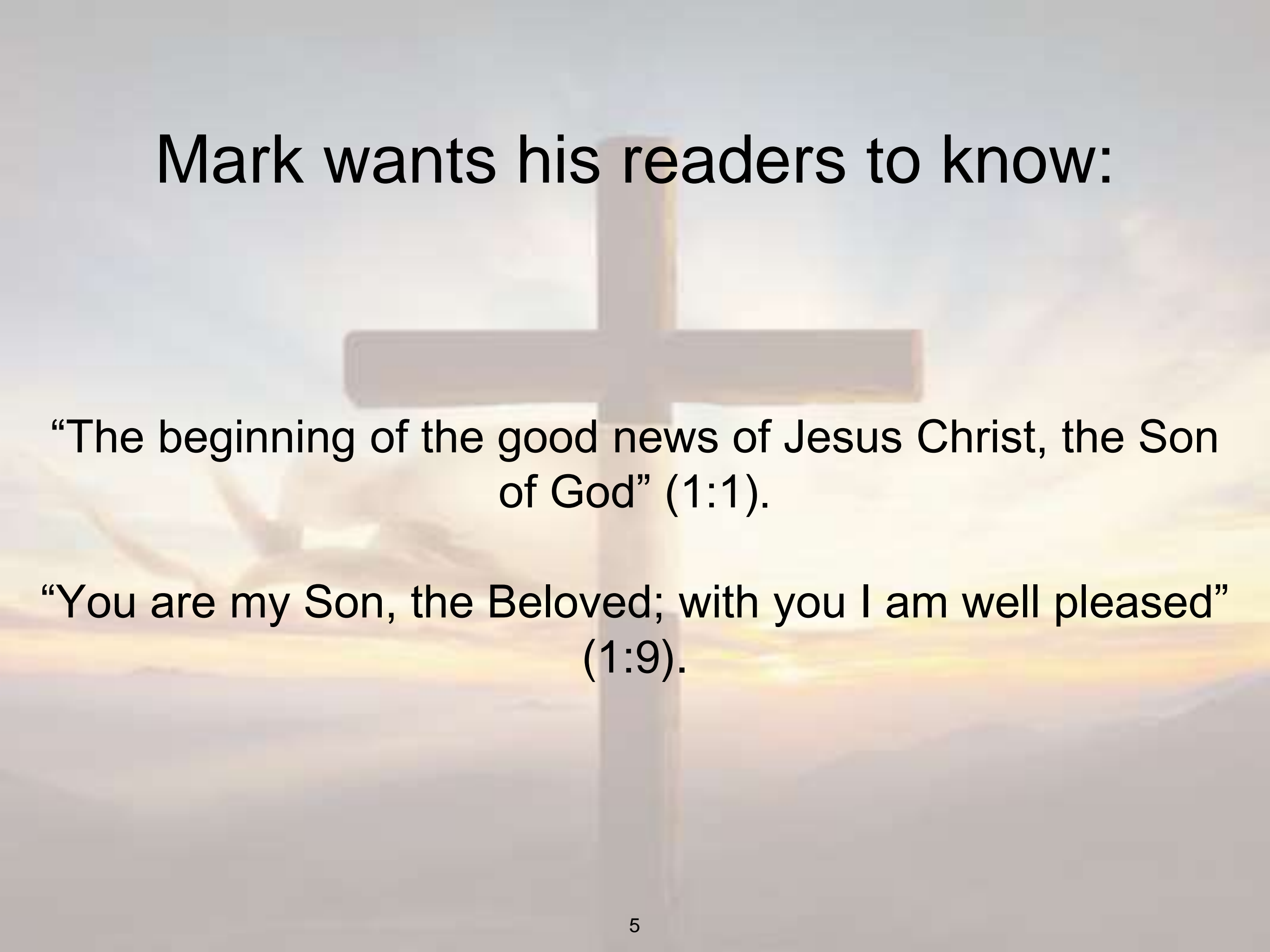
- Prayer in school is unconstitutional (1962)
- Bible reading in schools is unconstitutional (1963)
- Legalization of abortion (January 22, 1973)
- Reversed Louisiana's ban on evolution in public schools (1987)
- Ruled against nondenominational graduation prayer (1992)
- Unconstitutional to require the teaching of intelligent design (2005)

# Unbelief in America

- In 2011, Nancy Pelosi said that healthcare providers who refuse to perform abortions “have this conscience thing.”
- To date, five states have legalized physician assisted death: Oregon, California, Washington, Vermont, and Montana.
- Adults identifying as Christian dropped 7% from 2007 to 2014.
- Every year 4,000 churches in America close their doors, as opposed to 1,000 church plants.

# The Gospel of Mark

- John Mark, close associate of St. Peter, later companion of Paul and Barnabas.
- Gospel written to a church in Rome, or at least to Gentile Christians.
- Recipients were experiencing suffering for their faith.
- Strong theme of belief versus unbelief.



Mark wants his readers to know:

“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1).

“You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased”  
(1:9).

# The Disciples

-After calming the storm Jesus asked, “Have you still no faith?” And the disciples wondered, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (4:40-41)

-After the feeding of the 5,000, the disciples see Jesus walking on the water and freak out. Jesus said, “I AM, do not be afraid!” But the disciples lacked understanding because “their hearts were hardened” (6:50-52).

-Point blank question: “Who do you say that I am?” Peter replies, “You are the Messiah!” (8:30)

# The Disciples

-Unable to deliver the demon possessed boy.

-“You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you?”

-“If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us!”

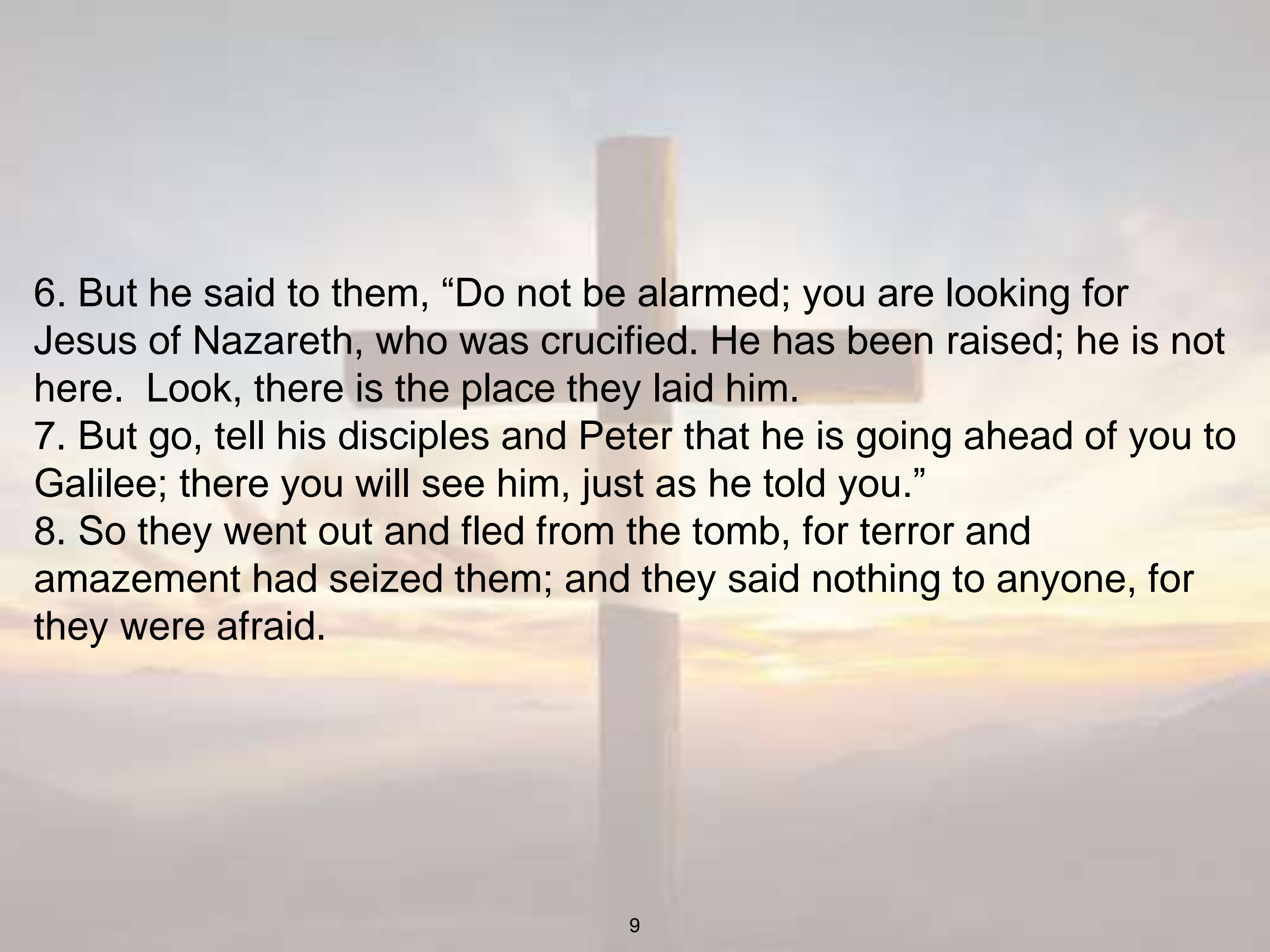
-“If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.”

Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; Help my unbelief!” (9:19-24)

# Mark 16:1-8

1. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.
2. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.
3. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”
4. When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.
5. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.



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6. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.
7. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”
8. So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

# First Appearance

Mark 16:9-11

9. Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

10. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping.

11. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

# Unbelief

- Perpetuates cycles of grief and wounding.
- Destroys credibility of yourself and others.

# Second Appearance

Mark 16:12-13

12. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country.

13. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

# Unbelief



-Divides the people of God.

# Third Appearance

Mark 16:14-16

14. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

15. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.”

# The Root of Unbelief

-The root of unbelief is not that which is happening around you, but that which is happening ***within*** you.

# The Healing of Unbelief

-The healing of unbelief only happens in the presence of the resurrected Christ.

-The result is the ability to fulfill God's good purposes for our lives.

“The disciples went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere!” (16:20)





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