

# Mark 16

Lesson for Sunday, September 17, 2023

SUMMARY: Jesus rises from the grave, defeating death for all time, and ascends to heaven after giving His disciples the command to preach the Good News throughout the whole world.

1. He arises (vs. 1-18)
  - a. The resurrection announcement (vs. 1-8)
    - i. The grief (vs. 1-3)
    - ii. The glory (vs. 4-8)
  - b. The resurrection appearances (vs. 9-18)
    - i. First appearance to Mary Magdalene (vs. 9-11)
    - ii. Second appearance to two believers (vs. 12-13)
    - iii. Third appearance to the disciples as they are eating (vs. 14-18)
2. He ascends (vs. 19-20)

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ We have finally made it to the end of Mark's Gospel. Discuss: What is one thing you have taken away from our study? *Allow for discussion...*
- ⇒ Any time you finish reading something important the natural question ought to be, "So what?"
  - "In light of what I have read and learned, what should I do?"
  - This is especially true when we read the Bible.
- ⇒ As we wrap up Mark, what is the "so what?" Good news: Jesus tells us!

BIBLE STUDY: *Point 3 is the heart of the lesson! Plan to spend the majority of your time there!*

1. An Introduction to Jesus
  - a. Mark introduces us to the subject of his gospel in chapter 1, verse 1.
    - i. Mark was writing to a primarily Roman audience.
    - ii. His subject was clear: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
  - b. Each of the four Gospels present the earthly life of the Lord Jesus Christ, but each provides a different view of Christ.
    - i. They were written by different men at different times.
    - ii. They were written for different audiences from different perspectives.
    - iii. In Matthew, Jesus is the Sovereign King.
    - iv. In Mark, Jesus is the Suffering Servant.
    - v. In Luke, Jesus is the Son of Man.
    - vi. In John, Jesus is the Son of God.
2. An Example to Emulate
  - a. Mark sets forth Christ as the Servant of Jehovah. The key verse being Mark 10:42-45.
    - i. Vs. 42: This is the world's way.
    - ii. Vs. 43-44: Jesus presents the principle of being a servant.
    - iii. Vs. 45: The illustration of Jesus Himself.
  - b. Jesus didn't just preach a message on being a servant, He became the chief Servant and example for us to emulate.
  - c. Discuss as a class: What examples of Jesus being a servant have we seen in our study of Mark? *Allow for discussion...*

- d. Jesus as a Servant is most obviously seen at the Cross.
- 3. A Commission to Obey
  - a. This brings us to the “so what.”
  - b. Read together Mark 16:14-15, 19-20. In these verses we discover a pattern we are to still follow today:
  - c. First, we see the Lord had risen (vs. 14). “*He appeared...*”
    - i. Can you imagine the response of the disciples? Three days earlier their dreams seemed to die, but here was Jesus standing in their presence.
    - ii. What do you think that did for the confidence of those early followers?
    - iii. We must never forget: Christ is risen! The tomb is still empty! That is the source of our hope!
    - iv. The world seems out of control and Christianity can seem to be losing, but Jesus is risen and on His throne. This fact alone should provide Christians with a perspective that stands in stark contrast to the world around us.
  - d. Second, we hear the Lord’s commission (vs. 15).
    - i. The Great Commission is found in all four Gospels and in the book of Acts.
    - ii. In Mark’s account, we find the most succinct recording, yet it is also the most comprehensive.
    - iii. Simply stated: Christ died for all and He desires that all know it.
    - iv. This is His command to every believer.
  - e. Third, we see the Lord’s ascension (vs. 19).
    - i. This ought to remind us that we serve a living Savior!
    - ii. This one fact alone separates Christianity from every other religion. Joseph Smith is dead (Mormons). Muhammad is dead (Islam). Buddha is dead. L Ron Hubbard is dead (Scientology).
    - iii. But Jesus is alive! Again, this ought to shape each Christian’s perspective.
  - f. Finally, we see the disciple’s obedience (vs. 20).
    - i. Think about it: The disciples took the logical next step.
    - ii. In light of all they had witnessed and seen, they obeyed.
    - iii. By Acts 17:6 the Christians are described as the ones “who have turned the world upside down.”

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ What are we to do? Exactly what the disciples did.
- ⇒ It is the only logical thing to do. In light of what we have learned as we have worked through Mark’s Gospel, why would we not obey Jesus?
- ⇒ Our goal this fall is +1: Each class taking personal responsibility to reach one more. It’s more than a church goal, it is a matter of being obedient to the first thing Jesus commanded us to do!
- ⇒ Talk as a class about how you are doing in reaching 1, what you can do in the coming week(s), etc.