

The Gospel of Mark

Walking with the Servant Savior

Lesson 21 Mark 16:1–20

Day One:

He Is Risen!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. Throughout the centuries, many have rejected the claims of the Bible and debated the reality of the Resurrection in an attempt to explain it away, but the Gospels present the Resurrection as an historical fact. What is recorded in them is the word of the apostles, eyewitnesses to these things: *“Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said”* (John 2:22).

Read Mark 16:1–20.

1. When the Sabbath was over, who appeared at the tomb? vv. 1–2
 - a. When did they arrive and for what purpose?

These women were among the last at the cross on Friday and were the first at the tomb on Sunday. They had followed Joseph, who took the body to the tomb, so they would know where He was laid.

2. What concern did these women voice that seemed an obvious obstacle to their mission? v. 3
 - a. When the women looked at the tomb, what did they notice? v. 4
 - b. Upon entering the tomb, what did the women see and how did they respond? v. 5
3. Matthew’s Gospel records a supernatural event that had taken place. Briefly state what happened. See Matthew 28:1–4.

- a. Who was this young man clothed in white that Marks talks about in verse 5?
- b. What reassurance did he offer to the women? v. 6

The angel invited the women in to see for themselves the place where Joseph and Nicodemus had laid Him. John's account (20:7) records that the linen cloths wrapped around the Lord's body were still in place, but that the handkerchief wrapped around His head was neatly folded in a place by itself, implying that no one could have stolen the body and left the linens as if the body still remained. The only explanation was that Jesus had indeed risen just as He said!

4. The women had come to anoint the Lord's dead body; but what task did the angel give them? v. 7
 - a. How did they respond and what did they do next? v. 8

According to Luke: *"It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them"* (Luke 24:10–11). Peter and John then dashed to the tomb and looked in for themselves; they believed but they did not understand (John 20:9). The angel singled out Peter for special mention to assure him that despite Peter's denials, Jesus had forgiven him and had a great work for him ahead.

Selah...

Is there any *obstacle* facing you right now that, like these women, seems insurmountable? Is there a "stone" too big for you to move on your own? If God's power was able to roll away that stone and raise Jesus from the dead, you can trust Him today for your situation. His Resurrection power is greater than any problem you fear! Take a moment to record your thoughts.

Heartbeat . . . "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Day Two:

The Risen Lord Appears

What to look for...

What joy there is in sharing the kind of good news that gets attention, brings comfort, and results in praise to God. Mary must have experienced that joy when she ran back to share with the disciples the most wonderful news ever heard! That same good news is being heard around the world today—person to person—bringing many to God. Are *you* passing on the joy?

Read Mark 16:9–11 and John 20:1–18.

After the women had told the disciples about the Resurrection, and after Peter and John went to look for themselves, Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb. John's Gospel presents the details of the conversation between Jesus and Mary.

1. Peter and John had left amazed, but what did Mary do? See John 20:11–18.
 - a. When Mary looked into the tomb, what did she see?
 - b. When the angels asked why she was crying, what reason did she give?

As Mary turned around, she saw Jesus standing there but did not know who He was.

- c. What two questions did Jesus ask her?
- d. Who did she assume Jesus was?

Mary desperately wanted to know of the Lord's whereabouts; and at that point, Jesus said, "*Mary!*" When she turned she recognized Him, calling Him, "*Rabboni,*" or *Teacher*.

2. Jesus gave Mary two instructions; what were they? v. 17
3. According to Mark's account, when Mary went to tell those who had been with Jesus of the news, what were they doing? Mark 16:10–11
 - a. Did they believe her story?
 - b. Why do you think they were not open to the truth?

Look closer...

Mark reminds the reader (16:9) that Mary's devotion to the Lord was because He had cast out seven demons from her. Exactly why Jesus chose to appear to her first is not known; but the fact that she was a woman, a sinner with a troubled past, is very encouraging. It was her simple child-like faith in Jesus and His forgiveness of her that resulted in her putting her faith, hope, and love in action!

- ❖ What remarkable thing has Jesus done in your life that has caused you, likewise, to put *yours* into action?

Review this week's memory verse.

Day Three: On the Road to Emmaus

What to look for...

Jesus appeared again to two unnamed disciples walking along a country road on their way back to the town of Emmaus. They had been in Jerusalem; they were aware of the crucifixion of Jesus. They also knew that the tomb was empty but they didn't understand because they, too, were filled with sadness.

Read Mark 16:12–13; and Luke 24:13–27.

1. According to Luke's account, as the two disciples talked and reasoned together, what happened? v. 15

Their eyes were *restrained* (prevented) from knowing who Jesus was. He then went on to ask them what they were discussing.

2. Briefly state how they responded to Jesus? vv. 18–20
 - a. What were these men hoping would happen?
 - b. What did they think of the news from the women who went to the tomb?
vv. 22–23

Apparently, these two men were with the other disciples when Peter and John returned to say the tomb was empty but they did not find Jesus.

3. How did Jesus refer to them as they reiterated their story? vv. 25–26

- a. Of what did He remind them about His mission? v. 26
 - b. In your own words, what did Jesus share with them? v. 27
4. When did their eyes become opened to what Jesus was saying to them?
vv. 28–31
- a. What were the lasting effects on these two men from their encounter with Jesus? vv. 32–35
5. According to Mark’s Gospel, did the disciples back in Jerusalem believe the testimony of these two men? Mark 16:13

Selah...

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were familiar with the teachings of the prophets, but their disbelief had blinded them to the greatest event ever recorded in human history! Perhaps part of the problem was the fact that they did not remain with the other followers in Jerusalem. They were walking in the wrong direction—away from the fellowship of other believers!

- ❖ Walking away from fellowship will make it harder for you to recognize Jesus when He comes with the word your heart needs to hear at a particular moment. How has fellowship with other believers this year brought *you* closer to the Lord?

Review this week’s memory verse.

Day Four: The Great Commission

What to look for...

The disciples were reluctant to believe, but that reluctance was removed when Jesus appeared to them all at one time. Jesus confronts them and then issues His final command before returning to the Father.

Read Mark 16:14–20 and Matthew 28:16–20.

- 1. When Jesus appeared to the eleven, what were the issues He raised in rebuke of His disciples? v. 14

Jesus had told them He was going to die; He had also told them He would rise from the dead. Since He repeatedly told them, and since all of it was prophesied in the Old Testament, they were without excuse; they should have joyfully received the news.

2. Before His death, where did Jesus say He would go to meet with them?
Mark 14:28

It is a mountain in Galilee where Jesus makes His final appearance to His followers and outlines His final charge. Verses 15–18 detail the instructions.

3. Write out the words to the final *Great Commission* (v. 15):
 - a. Preaching the Gospel also meant making disciples. What else did that include? v. 16 and Matthew 28:19

Baptism itself does not save; it is the outward step of obedience taken by one who has been transformed on the inside. Notice Jesus does not say that those who were not baptized would be condemned, but rather those who do *not believe*. Belief in Him is much more than personal preference; it is a literal choice between eternal life or death!

- b. What signs did He say would follow those who believe? Mark 16:17–18
4. Jesus promised that as the disciples fulfilled their commission, miraculous signs would accompany them (many of these are recorded in the book of Acts). By whose authority did Jesus make this promise? Matthew 28:18.
 - a. What else did He promise them? Matthew 28:20b
5. After Jesus had spoken to them, where did He go? Mark 16:19–20 and Acts 1:9.

His work of salvation being completed, Jesus sat down at the right hand of God where He now lives to make intercession on behalf of the saints everywhere (Hebrews 7:25). The work of His disciples, however, was just beginning. These disbelieving hard-hearted men in the book of Acts were turned into Spirit-filled preachers who turned their world upside down; and who continue through their writings to pass on the charge to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of all nations. Today, following Jesus still means receiving His power to serve. His example as our *Servant Savior* reminds us that we walk the same road with the same high standard and the same goal: to bring men, women, and children of all nations to Christ!

“For He Himself has said, ‘I will never—no never—no never—leave you nor forsake you.’” (Hebrews 13:5)

Day Five:

Praying God's Purpose

It's time to do some *prayer walking*—not in the literal, but the *spiritual* sense. The Holy Spirit will lead you today as you consider three points from your lesson, write them in the form of a prayer, and lift them to the Lord. If practicing the presence of God is new to you—be patient—it will come, and you will be blessed!

"... We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." Romans 8:26-27 NLT

A prayer for knowing Jesus...

Have you met Jesus this year through your study of His Word? Reading and knowing *about* Him is not the same as *receiving* Him into your heart. If you haven't already, would you pray today to be forgiven of your sin, asking Jesus to come inside and be your Lord and Savior? Keep praying every day to know Him more intimately.

A prayer for sharing the Good News...

Only when you have received Christ as Savior will you be motivated to share with others what He has done for you. Ask Him each day to fill you with the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His witness.

A prayer for maintaining unbroken fellowship...

Pray and ask God to help you become determined to stay plugged in to fellowship with other believers. Hebrews 10:24–25 says, *"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together . . . but exhorting one another, and so much more as you see the Day approaching."*

Write out this week's verse from memory:

Notes