



Mark 16 Lesson 25

Through this wonderful gospel, Mark has put us "on the scene," providing incredible snapshots of the life, ministry, and purpose of Jesus Christ. In vivid style he has urged us to understand and embrace our Servant Savior to realize the salvation that is available through faith in Jesus Christ. Coming to this final chapter, we witness the amazing power of our Lord through the resurrection. May the Spirit of God open your heart to understand the indescribable future you have as a child of God with Jesus Christ.

Living in the Text: Read Mark 16:1-20

1. Reviewing this chapter, try to imagine yourself in this garden, hearing this news of Jesus' resurrection for the very first time. What makes the resurrection so important to you as a Christian?

Living in a Garden: Mark 16:1-8

With a few words, Mark describes the events that literally changed the course of history and brought hope to humanity. This event began with three unsuspecting women returning to the tomb to anoint His body for burial.

2. How many days had passed since the burial of Jesus?
 - a. When the women arrived at the tomb what were they expecting to see? Try to describe this scene.

Bringing it into Focus:

Did you notice they were concerned about a barrier that God had already moved! Can you relate to this? Has there been a time in your life when you worried about obstacles that God had already determined to clear out of the way? What was the outcome? How can this incident serve as an encouragement to stretch your faith as you encounter obstacles in your day-to-day life?

3. What did the young man (the angel) say had happened to Jesus?
 - a. What were they instructed to do?
 - b. Was the angel singling out Peter because of his denial or indicating he was forgiven and still considered a disciple?
 - c. How would it make you feel to receive this kind of message from an angel of God?

4. Was there anything surprising to you in the way the women reacted to what they saw?
 - a. Look up the following verses. In each of these passages, the emotion of fear is also associated with something else. What is it?

Matthew 14:30–31	Mark 4:40–41	Mark 5:36
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 - b. Imagine you are talking with a friend who is frequently fearful. How would you counsel her to place her trust in the Lord and overcome her unbelief? Is there a Scripture you could share that she could memorize and use as a tool to help her at those times?

Living in Unbelief: Mark 16:9-13

Afraid (vs. 8) doesn't seem a good way to end an account that results in salvation and assurance for the future. Mark goes on to reveal more of the responses to Christ's resurrection.

5. There are three appearances recorded by Mark of Jesus Christ after the resurrection. To whom does Jesus first appear?
 - a. In your opinion, is there any significance in the fact that the first person to see the risen Savior was a woman?
 - b. How did the disciples respond to her great news?
 - c. What does their reaction reveal about the state of their heart?
6. How did the disciples react to the two men who saw the risen Christ? (verse 12)
 - a. Can you relate to their reaction? How can discouragement and doubt over a life situation disillusion you, so that you no longer see reality?

Bringing it into Focus:

Before coming down too hard on the disciples, consider yourself. Do you believe that the things Jesus promises will really happen? Do your actions reflect your beliefs? Do you always trust that He will provide during difficult financial struggles or that He is in control when a loved one is sick or wanders from the Truth? When you encounter words in Scripture that are hard to believe or understand, how do you respond?

The Scorn: Mark 15:16-20

7. What did Jesus say to the unbelieving disciples? (verse 14)

8. Verses 14–18 are commonly known as the Great Commission. In your own words, explain the general instruction to every believer.
 - a. Verse 16 states that there will be two results of preaching the gospel. What are they?
 - b. In what ways are you expressing the celebration of your salvation as a witness of Jesus Christ?

9. Mark concludes with the glorious description of Jesus' ascension into heaven. Take a moment to read Acts 1:9–11. What stands out to you?
 - a. As we end this precious gospel, how does that promise speak to you—that Jesus is coming again? Are you ready and waiting? Or are you praying for more time to get your life in order?
 - b. Ask yourself: Would you live any different today if each moment you had the constant awareness that Jesus Christ is not only ALIVE but also present with you? What changes would you make...if any?

Living with Commitment:

10. As we close this study in the Gospel of Mark, try to peruse through the many postcards we've studied. Which was most meaningful to you?

For example:

- * The Galilean ministry—dealing with the demoniac, woman with a flow of blood, Jairus' daughter, the storm on the sea.
- * The Perrian ministry—the Syro-Phoenician woman, the issue of marriage and divorce, Bartimaeus.
- * The Jerusalem ministry—confronting the religious leaders, Gethsemane, the Last Supper, the cross, the garden resurrection.

11. Do you feel you drew closer to your Lord through this study?
 - a. After concluding this study, can you honestly say you have met Jesus Christ through this gospel? Beloved, remember that *reading about Him is not the same as receiving Him into your heart*. If you haven't already, would you pray now to be forgiven for your sins, to surrender your life and future into His care and purpose? Ask Him to invade your life and be your Lord, Savior, and King!

b. How would you summarize Mark's gospel to your own Christian experience?

12. If you had to title this gospel...what title would you give it?

Through this gospel, we gained insight into the personal sacrifice Jesus Christ made to become one of us. Page by page, He graphically displayed the meaning of His purpose and plan on earth: the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve!

Beloved, may God paint on the canvas of your memory a brilliant picture of Jesus Christ and may it forever color your world with adoration, love, and worship of our Servant Savior!