

March 31, 2024

“The Resurrection: Key to Faith”
Lesson 5

Mark 16:1-8

Intro

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the gospels. It is essentially Peter’s account of what Jesus did, written down by Mark, likely based on information presented in Peter’s sermons. Fully 1/3 of Mark’s Gospel, chapters 11-16, are an account of the last week of Jesus’ earthly life, leading to His crucifixion and triumphal resurrection. Today’s study deals with the first part of chapter 16, as the disciples learn of His resurrection

Read Mark 16:1-8

1. vs. 1: The account begins with three women coming to the tomb “to anoint Jesus’ body”
 - Jesus was buried on Friday, and Saturday was the Sabbath, when no work was allowed
 - This was the earliest that this process could have been done
 - They brought spices which would combat the stink of decaying flesh
 - The three women are Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome
 - Mary Magdalene was freed by Jesus of demon possession
 - Mary the mother of James is likely the same Mary mentioned in Mark 15:40
 - It is possible she is also the wife of Clopas from John 19:25
 - Salome is likely the mother of James and John (see Mark 5:21 and 15:40)
2. vs. 2: The mention of the time is significant
 - It was “very early...just after sunrise”
 - This shows their eager desire to attend to Jesus’ body, their love for their Lord
 - They obviously knew which tomb they were going to
3. vs. 3: A problem they had not considered in their eagerness now crops up
 - “Who will roll the stone away...?”
 - It would take several very strong people to roll away this disk-stone from the opening
 - When Jesus was arrested and crucified, many of his followers scattered
 - There were not many readily available for the women to call on for help
4. vs. 4: When they get to the tomb, however, the stone has already been rolled away
 - The gospels of Mark, Luke, and John don’t reveal how the stone was removed
 - Matthew’s account says that “an angel of the Lord...rolled back the stone”
5. vs. 5: Now that the stone is gone, the women can enter the tomb to administer the spices
 - However, instead of Jesus they see a “young man dressed in a white robe”
 - The other gospels identify this person as an angel, though Mark does not
 - All the accounts refer to either white clothes or brightness
 - The women expected to see Jesus; instead they see someone else
 - Their alarm and fear are both natural and to be expected in these circumstances

6. vs. 6: As with most angelic visits, this angel says, “Don’t be alarmed (afraid)”
The reaction of these women is consistent with everyone visited by angels
The angel identifies Jesus as “the Nazarene”, here meaning he was from Nazareth
He also specifies that He was crucified—no doubt who he’s referring to here
Second, the angel notes “He has risen!”
The once-dead Jesus has been raised back to life, as He did with Lazarus
Jesus told His followers this would happen, at least 4 times in Mark’s gospel
His disciples didn’t seem to understand what he meant, however
The angel finished by telling the women to “see the place where they laid him”
He would have been laid on a flat surface within the tomb
The angel is saying, “See where they put him? He’s not there anymore!”
7. vs. 7: Finally, the angel directs them to tell the other disciples and Peter about Jesus’ resurrection
For much of His ministry, Jesus told people not to reveal to others who He really was
Now that He has been resurrected, that situation is reversed—go tell everybody
The disciples need to know because they have scattered in fear after His crucifixion
Jesus calls them to Himself, so they can be reunited
Rather than punishment, Jesus offers and calls for reconciliation
The angel then repeats what Jesus has told his followers in Mark 14:28
He will go back to Galilee after He has risen from the dead
They are to meet Him there, the place where they were called by Jesus
8. vs. 8: The women are filled with fear and confusion
This is the only NT verse using the Greek words for trembling, bewildered, and afraid
These women are uncertain in their emotions
They have seen the empty tomb, but they have not yet see the risen Jesus

Application: Jesus’ resurrection is unique compared to others seen in the Bible. Those people were brought back to life temporarily; they would all die again later. But Jesus’ resurrection to life is permanent. He will never die again—he conquered death forever! Jesus promised that what was done in Him, resurrecting from the dead, would be accomplished in us as well. This is our message to the world: that Jesus conquered death forever, and that those who know Him will also conquer death forever.

Prayer: Father God, thank You for sending Jesus to conquer death. We look forward to the day when we meet You to live forever in newness of life. Give us strength and opportunity to proclaim this message to those who doubt and those who don’t know about You yet. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

