

Mark

Lesson 20

Chapter 16

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

David R. Steele

This lesson is a free download from Leader Guide Bible Studies and is not for resale.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®
NIV®

Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

The Resurrection

Lesson 20, Mark 16

Prayers

Introduction

God raised Jesus from the grave after his earthly glory at the cross to ascend to glory and sit at His right hand. As we are joined with Christ to carry our cross in his death, we are also joined with him in his resurrection. Christ's resurrection demonstrated his words and promises are true. All his promises are true, not only the promise of eternal life. God has his own perfect plan for each one of us. He plans that each of us flourishes – a full life abiding in Christ so that we bear fruit.

Read Mark 16:1-8, parallel verses in Mt 28:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, Jn 20:1-8

Mk 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

Mk 16:2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb Mk 16:3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

Mt 28:2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. Mt 28:3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. Mt 28:4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

Mk 16:4 But when they (the women) looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. Mk 16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

[Lk 24:5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men (Matthew includes two angels) said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?]

Mk 16:6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

[Lk 24:6 Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: Lk 24:7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "

Lk 24:8 Then they remembered his words.]

Mk 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, [Mt 28:7 'He has risen from the dead] 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.' "

Mk 16:8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid, [Mt 28:8 afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.]

Mt 28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them. **“Greetings,”** he said. They came to him, clasped his feet, and worshiped him.

Mt 28:10 Then Jesus said to them, **“Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”**

[Lk 24:9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

Lk 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

Lk 24:11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

Lk 24:12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.]

1. Why were the women at the tomb so early? See Luke 23:55-56

By Jewish Law, the Sabbath was observed from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. Consequently, Sunday morning was the first time for the women to go to the tomb in daylight. They wasted no time since they believed Jesus's body was dead and decaying, and they intended to provide a full burial of the body with perfumes and spices (Luke 23:56).

2. What obstacles did they face?

The women stood as witnesses to Jesus' burial and knew a large stone sealed his tomb so they would not be able to roll it away. They may have also known they faced a contingent of Roman soldiers guarding the tomb.

3. What is the significance of Jesus' appearance to the women before he appeared to the eleven disciples?

The women sought to care for Jesus' body the morning he arose, so they were the first to encounter him. But more importantly, these women ministered to Jesus throughout his ministry and stood by as witnesses to his crucifixion and burial when his other disciples fled - except John. Jesus appearing first to the women is a powerful testimony that women fully share in God's kingdom and are not "powerless second-class citizens" as viewed in Jesus' day.

4. What was the message the women were to deliver the disciples?

The gospel writers include different details in their account, but the message is the same – Jesus is risen from the dead - just as he said. The disciples were to go to Galilee to meet him.

The Guards' Report

Mt 28:11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

Mt 28:12 When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, ^{Mt 28:13} telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'

Mt 28:14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble."

Mt 28:15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

5. How do the guards' report and the fact Jesus appeared first to women help validate the truth about the resurrection in contrast to the account the Pharisees devised?

The guards risked their lives to report that they failed to secure the tomb – even if angels opened it! The testimony of women was not considered valid in a court of law; this was an honor bestowed on them by Jesus. If the resurrection were a lie, the story would include more reliable witnesses than disgraced soldiers and women. The logical flaw in the Pharisees' story is that they would have searched to find Jesus' body to expose the resurrection's hoax and put an end to Jesus' claims forever.

6. Why was it so important to the Pharisees to have a cover story for the empty tomb?

The resurrection is proof of the deity of Christ, who fulfilled the Messianic prophecies in the scriptures. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be a moralistic religion based on the teaching of a wise man but nothing more.

7. Some critics of Christianity point to differences between the gospel accounts as evidence that the gospels are not reliable. These differences include the number of women who visited the tomb, the number of angels at the tomb, the dialog between the angles and the women, and the disciples going to the tomb. What is your explanation of these differences, and what is the big picture lost by the critics?

None of the accounts by the four gospel writers are identical. The most common differences are detail included by one writer that is excluded by another. For example, John tells the resurrection account through the eyes of Mary Magdalene, whereas the other writers talk about the women. Matthew is the only writer to include the guards.

The point that the critics miss is that the focus of the story is the same; the tomb was empty because Jesus rose from the dead! The differences are easy to explain, but the central message of Jesus is Lord is accepted only by faith.

8. Of all the miraculous signs John included in his account, which have been the most significant or convincing to you?

How many miracles does it take to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah? The Apostle John cited the fewest number of miracles of any gospel writer because each one showed that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cast out demons, healed all manner of sickness, fed the multitudes from a bit of bread and a few fish, walked on water, calmed the wind and waves,

raised the dead to life, and was raised from the dead himself by God the Father. He promised all who believed that he was the Son of God, God incarnate, to save us from our sin and grant us eternal life. Christianity is entirely logical to me. I know that I cannot draw close to God by my own efforts or righteousness, so I am forever grateful that Jesus is my righteousness before God and that God chose to bring me to himself.

Closing verse: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

Note on Mark 16:9-20

Mark 16:9-20 is not in the two most reliable early manuscripts dating from about 300 AD, the codices Sinaiticus and Vaticanus. However, there are more than 1,600 Greek copies of the New Testament that do include the passages. The earliest quote from the verses is by Irenaeus and others in 180 AD. The verses in Mark are consistent with verses found in the other gospels and Acts, so they are considered canon. It is possible that Mark's original ending was lost since the oldest portion of codex Vaticanus was also missing the Epistles by Paul, the end of Hebrews, and the end of Revelation. Even though other major works are missing from the codices, most scholars think verses 9-20 were added by another author very early in the history of the church.

Mk 16:9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.	Mt 28:1 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
Mk 16:10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.	Lk 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.
Mk 16:11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.	Lk 24:11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.
Mk 16:12 Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.	Lk 24:15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ^{Lk 24:16} but they were kept from recognizing him.
Mk 16:13 These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.	Lk 24:33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ^{Lk 24:34} and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

<p>Mk 16:14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.</p>	<p>Mt 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ^{Mt 28:17} When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted</p>
<p>Mk 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.</p>	<p>Mt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,</p>
<p>Mk 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.</p>	<p>baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ^{Mt 28:20} and teaching them to obey everything have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."</p>
<p>Mk 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;</p>	
<p>Mk 16:18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."</p>	
<p>Mk 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.</p>	<p>Lk 24:51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.</p>
<p>Mk 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.</p>	