
a *Grace Notes* course

The Gospel of Mark

an expositional Bible study

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Tulsa, Oklahoma

Lesson 16

Mark 16:1-20

Grace Notes

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The Gospel of Mark
Lesson 16: Mark 16:1-20

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Instructions for Completing the Lessons

There are sixteen (16) lessons in the MARK course curriculum, one lesson for each chapter.. There will be questions in the Quiz for each lesson on the topics that are named here.

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Instructions

Read the introduction to the study of Mark.

Study the Mark chapter for this lesson, by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.

Before taking the Quiz, **Review** all of the notes in the Mark lesson.

Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.

When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to SAVE your file. If your quiz file is lost, and that can happen at Grace Notes as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.

To send the Quiz back to Grace Notes, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.

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Chapter 16

The pyramids of Egypt are famous because they contained the mummified bodies of ancient Pharaohs. London's Westminster Abbey is renowned because it is the final resting place of British Kings and nobles. Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. is famous because it is the location of the graves of American heroes. But the Tomb of Jesus is empty - there is no epitaph inscribed in stone that begins with the words Here lies - Rather, our Lord's epitaph was spoken by an angel: He is not here, he is risen.

In MARK 16 we find the story of the women who came on the first day of the week to anoint the body of Christ their Lord and Savior.

In John 19:25 we find that these three women were present at the Cross along with John, the youngest disciple.

Now they came to the tomb with the idea of anointing the body of the Lord.

Mark 16:1

And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Old Testament Law prohibited the handling of the dead on the Sabbath. That weekend was extended because of the Passover Sabbath and the regular Sabbath. So now, three days later they have their first opportunity to further preserve the body of their Lord.

Mark 16:2

And very early on the first day of the week (Sunday) they came to the tomb as the sun was rising.

We see three things in the early morning actions of these devout women:

1. Sacrifice: Their home was Bethany, some miles away. They had to awake early in the morning and walk to the garden tomb.

They brought with them spices, expensive herbs and scents to anoint the body of the Lord.

Anointing a dead body is not a pleasant task. Yet their love for the Savior saw them setting aside this unpleasantness in their expression of deep appreciation and sorrow.

Principle: Love does not seek the easy or the pleasant but is willing to sacrifice. Their personal relationship, personal love, and personal friendship for the Savior sparked an attitude of service and sacrifice.

2. Planning: This was not a haphazard journey. They carefully planned the time of their leaving so as to not defile the Sabbath. They collected the expensive spices and scents to anoint the body.

Principle: An attitude of service and sacrifice is good but it must bring about careful planning. Emotion and enthusiasm are great but we must then lay careful plans to reach our goals.

3. We also see Human viewpoint: As they walked from Bethany to the garden tomb, they began to talk and as they talked they realized they left something out of the planning stage:

Mark 16:3

And they said among themselves, Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?

They forgot something very important. There is a huge carved stone that is sealed with an imperial Roman seal, guarded by Roman guards, enclosing the cave tomb of Jesus.

When they made the statement of verse 3 they were not in sight of the tomb. This statement shows that their careful planning lacked any plan for removing the stone. This problem could have had two results.

First, it could have seemed like an insurmountable problem. They could have turned around and headed back home.

We will see in the very next verse that the problem with the stone is an imagined problem.

How often do we allow imagined problems to defeat us, to turn us away, to rob us of the joy of service and ministry?

Principle: Just as God had already taken care of the problem of the stone, he has already taken care

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of the greatest problem you will ever have. You were dead in your sins, but Christ took care of that problem.

That becomes our starting point for every other problem of life. If he took care of the greatest problem we have, then will he not also take care of the lesser problems of life? Of course he will- God will roll away the stone problems in our own lives.

And as we see here, he often solves the problem before we even get onto the scene. One thing these ladies did not do, they did not worry about the stone, they pressed on.

That is the second and the right result that we see: They kept on going to the tomb.

From the moment that one of these women thought about the stone and then voiced her concern to the others, they were walking by faith.

So far they had done everything right. They had made a decision to serve, to minister, to anoint the Lord's body. They had assembled the necessary spices and herbs. They had planned their journey - but now they add the most important part: FAITH.

At this point and from this point on, every step they took was a step of faith.

The Christian Life is built upon the truth of God. Salvation is in the work of Christ. The Christ centered life is centered on Christ. We learn promises, principles, and precepts of God's Word but in the final analysis it all boils down to one essential ingredient - FAITH.

What would we have done if we were on our way to the tomb and suddenly remembered the stone that would bar us from performing our service?

Three Possibilities:

1. Give up: We would allow an imagined problem to rob us of anticipated joy of service. Some problem that was not even a problem or some problem that is no problem to the Lord. We would give up, turn aside, go home.
2. Press on: But not in faith, but in stubbornness. Some of us are just stubborn and stick with something in spite of problems and circumstances - but is that really faith?

3. Third and best possibility: Press on by Faith: They had left no key at home to unlock the stone so there was no reason to go home for a solution. They could have given up but instead they pressed on in faith.

Mark 16:4

The reward of faith:

And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

They questioned in v 3: Who will roll away the stone?

But in v 4 it states: The stone was rolled away

While the phrase rolled away in the English looks the same as the one in verse 3, they are different terms in the Greek text.

In verse 3, "they asked" is APO + KULIW - to roll away.

But in verse 4, here is how God did it: ANA + KULIW, which means to do more than just roll it away, but also to roll it up, completely out of the way, out of its track or guide.

The significance of this is that this large stone could not be replaced by anything less than an army of men. If it had been merely rolled aside, the Roman guards could have quickly rolled it back in its track and had the imperial seal replaced and kept quiet about what had occurred. But the stone was moved away from the front of the tomb, and the guards took off.

Principle: God's grace goes beyond our expectations. His actions always surpasses our expectations. Divine viewpoint always goes beyond Human viewpoint. When the women came into the garden, the stone was away from the tomb, and the tomb was empty and unguarded - except for two angels.

Mark 16:5

And entering into the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right [hand side of the tomb], having been clothed in a white robe and they were greatly astonished.

Mark mentions only the one angel, which fits the brevity of his account, but Luke (Luke 24:4) in his

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very specific account mentions the presence of two angels. John in John 20:12 also mentions two angels.

These two angels had a very important assignment. They were there to proclaim the truth of what had occurred.

The body of Christ was not stolen by other disciples. Nor was it removed by the authorities as became the common lie a few centuries later.

THE TRUTH: He is not here, he is risen -

Who were these two angels: In Exodus 37 we have the account of Bezaleel the craftsman who constructed the ark. He had to build the chest, the mercy seat, and fashion the two angels, cherubim, who stood on either side of the mercy seat.

Question: How do you fashion an angel if you have never seen one? God gave him help, two angels, one representing the Justice of God and the other the perfect righteousness of God to use as models. These real angels were the ones who guard these attributes of God.

The angels were there as a testimony of the presence of God with His people -

In Mark 16 these two angels, who had hovered over the Cross as they had hovered over the ark, were now there to testify to the absence of the Lord Jesus Christ:

He is not here, he is risen -

Mark 16:6

But he said to them, be not greatly astonished, ye seek Jesus the Nazarene, the one having been crucified, he was raised, he is not here, behold the place where they put him.

Then we have instructions given to these women:

Mark 16:7

By believing the message fear was eliminated and now opportunity for ministry was at hand.

Go ye and tell his disciples and Peter, that he goes before you to Galilee, there you will see him as he told you.

The message of the angels can be summarized under four points:

1. Do not be afraid: Fear of God and His mighty works can be a hindrance to the relationship you are to have with Christ and to your service to the Savior.

Every soul has a need that is greater than self and you must go to the one who is greater than self to find fulfillment of that need. God has come to us in the person of Jesus Christ, the God man and now we come to Him with our fear.

2. Do not be misled: Many stories would soon surface as to what happened to the Lord's body. But the angels proclaim the truth - He is risen.

They were looking for Jesus among the dead, but he lives.

Today there is more false doctrine available than sound doctrine. If you do not want to be misled, you must seek Jesus Christ among the living and the Bible is the mind of Christ, the living Word of God.

3. Do not be discouraged: The angels encouraged them, Jesus is not here, He is risen, He goes before you to Galilee.

They had so carefully planned their journey, collected the spices, rising early that morning for this long walk to the tomb.

Now all their planning came to nought. They could have been discouraged, but the message of the angels became more real, more true, more important than their plans.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

4. Go and tell others: Far greater than the anointing of the dead body of the Lord would be the ministry they would have on behalf of the living Savior.

As they were willing to serve, to do the unpleasant task of anointing the Lord's body, the Lord now blessed them with an even greater task, the ministry of telling others about him.

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Mark 16:8

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulcher; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

This statement appears to contradict the instructions they received from the angels. But closer examination and comparison with passages in Luke 24:9, John 20:2, and Matthew 28:8 indicates that while they did tell the disciples and Peter, they did not tell anyone else.

The verb telling us that they were afraid is in the imperfect tense and thus, a temporary fear that ceased once they were with the other believers.

This fear is middle voice and thus, beneficial for them whereas their earlier astonishment was passive and of no benefit to them.

The benefit of this fear was that they feared the Roman authorities and the Temple Police who could have detained them, questioned them, even accused them of wrong doing.

So what did they do with an empty tomb?

1. These women who came to anoint the body of the Lord left the open tomb, and as stated in Luke 24:9 they told the eleven disciples and others who were present with them that Jesus was not in the tomb.

2. What did the disciples do with the empty tomb: They doubted. We so often pick on Thomas who doubted the resurrection but all the disciples at first doubted that the tomb was empty.

Luke 24:11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

More than 26 times the Lord had predicted that while he would die on the Cross, he would be risen on the third day. He was - yet the empty tomb was doubted.

3. Peter had to see for himself and took young John with him. He doubted what he heard but was not satisfied to just sit around and mourn with the others.

John 20:4 So they (Peter and John) ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher.

4. What did the Roman guard do with an empty tomb? Peter and John ran to the tomb, but earlier the Roman Guard had run away from it.

5. And when they reported to the chief priests what had happened they were paid to fabricate a story about the disciples coming against an entire Roman Guard who were armed with pikes, daggers, and the Roman short sword, defeating them and stealing the body.

What did the authorities do with an empty tomb. They were afraid of it, and made of a lie to explain it.

6. The Roman Emperor Tiberius even reacted to the empty tomb. As word of the resurrection reached imperial headquarters in Rome he sought to prevent an reoccurrence by issuing an imperial decree which became known as the Nazareth Inscription. It was an invective prohibiting meddling with tombs or graves and was backed by the heaviest sanctions.

What did Tiberius do with an empty tomb? Passed a law so it would never happen again.

7. But now we come to ourselves, reading this today. What do we do with an empty tomb?

Some Christians today doubt it, some fear it, others even fabricate lies against it. Like Peter, some believers seek the emptiness of the tomb while forgetting that the empty tomb is not what matters.

The greater issue is: Why was it empty -

The empty tomb should drive us to the risen Savior who is now seated at God's right hand.

The first community of Christians in Jerusalem spoken of in the book of Acts made no special mention of the tomb, it did not become a place of worship or a special shrine - for our Savior is not there -

The Cross is empty; the tomb is empty. Our Savior, our Lord, our friend, Jesus Christ lives.

Father, we thank you for the empty tomb, not for it emptiness but for what it means. That our Savior is risen and that we now serve a living Savior.

Every word of the Bible that was taught today was written for a purpose:

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John 20:31 - that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Mark 16:9-20

[Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.

10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.

11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

12 After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.

13 They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

14 Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

15 And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

17 These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] [And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

[Some of the oldest manuscripts of Mark do not contain verses 9 to 20 chapter 16. Dr. Hill has no notes on these verses. wd]

Mark Lesson 16 Quiz

Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:". A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

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Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

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Questions on Mark Lesson 16

Congratulations on reaching the end of the Mark course. This is a long course, with a lot of reading and study; but it is a great blessing to study God's Word and to grow spiritual under the Spirit's ministry.

1. Essay Question: Please write two or three paragraphs giving your evaluation of this course. You can write whatever ideas that occur to you, and if you like, you can include a testimony of blessings you have received while doing this study.

Answer:

2. If you would like to do so, send an e-mail message to the author of this course, Dan Hill, to let him know that you have finished the course, and to tell him what you think of it. His e-mail address is <hill918@aol.com>. I think it would be a great blessing to him to hear from you.

3. Write your name here, as you would like to have it on your certificate. Also, please give me your mailing address again, in case I don't have the correct address in my database.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip (Postal Code)

Country (if not USA)

The Lord bless you as you continue to do His will.

Warren

End of Quiz