



The Book of Mark

Session 14: Mark 16

Jesus spent 3 days in the tomb. During that time, he served our sentence or payment for sin. He preached to the fallen angels who were held captive. He brought back the saints who were waiting for the sacrifice of Christ himself to bring them to heaven.

Our goals for this week:

- To experience what the 3 women experienced at the empty tomb
- To understand why the disciples couldn't believe
- To step into the call of the Great Commission

Question: When you think of Christ's resurrection, does it bring a sense of triumph in your own faith?

Read Mark 16:1-4

- It's now Saturday evening, Sabbath has ended for the Jewish people. The women go out to buy spices to anoint Jesus's body.

Question: It was love and dedication for a son, a friend, their Savior to do such an act. To what level is your devotion to Jesus? Are you His friend or just a familiar person?

- They still couldn't comprehend Jesus coming out of the tomb. That He would rise as he said. The tomb is empty, and the stone is rolled away.

Question: The women needed someone to move the stone in order to finish Jesus's burial. What stone needs moved in your faith? What obstacle is in the way?

- The stone had been rolled away. It was a moment they would never forget.

Question: The rubber hits the road for us as men. Why did only the women go? Where were the disciples? Fear will stop men from the experience of something greater in their lives. Are you ready for that next step?

Read: Mark 16:5-8

An angel of the Lord was sitting inside the tomb. He speaks and tells them not to be shocked or frightened.

Question: They were shocked that the stone had been rolled away and that an angel was inside. The horrific death and the tomb overwhelmed them. What overwhelms you in your faith?

- The angel says “Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, Has Risen! He isn’t here!”

Question: How is the resurrected King resurrecting you in your life?

- The angel tells the women to go back and tell the disciples. He makes it a point for them to tell Peter.

Question: Why do you think the angel named only Peter by name? How do you think Peter might have responded by what the woman said?

- The women walk away trembling and bewildered. They saw Jesus raise Lazarus. They said nothing and returned.

Question: Jesus told his disciples that he would rise from the dead. See Mark 9:9-10 and Mark 10:34. Why couldn’t they understand? We all have asked the question of how or why. What’s your how or why question in your life?

Read Mark 16:9-14

- The first person Jesus sees is Mary Magdalene. She had the faith not to hide, to believe, to trust Jesus. Again, we see Jesus meeting people right where they are.

Question: It’s been said that those who have been forgiven much, love much. What do you think about this statement?

- The disciples were grieving and weeping instead of rejoicing at the good news. Was it because they were prejudiced against the witness?

Question: Why didn’t Jesus see his disciples first? Ever ask that question? They had spent the lost time with him. They were entitled to be first. How does entitlement hinder our faith journey in Christ?

- They had the women, Mary Magdalene's encounter, and the two followers see Jesus. Read Luke 24:13-34. With all of these encounters and visits, the disciples still can't believe.

Read Mark 16:14

- There was division in the upper room. Disciples simply couldn't believe they saw Jesus appearing to them in this portion of scripture.

Question: Jesus rebukes them for their stubbornness and unbelief. Has the Holy Spirit ever rebuked you in your own stubbornness?

Read: The Great Commission, Mark 16:15-20

- There can be a superficial belief in this reading to which if I get baptized and even have a physical conformation of faith that "I'm in". Baptism or conformation doesn't get anyone into the Kingdom of Heaven. You must believe Jesus is your Savior, you must repent of sins and become a "New Creation in Christ". See 2 Corth. 5:17.

Question: Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? Today is the day of salvation! Pray that prayer. Take time to look over your life. Is there anything that needs to be made right?

- Every believer in Christ is called to the "Go statement", not just Pastors, Evangelists, or Teachers of the Bible.

Question: Where are you in the Go? How is the Holy Spirit using you and your testimony?

We have journeyed through the Book of Mark. We've seen the live action of the Christ. Let His life be an example for us all to live a life that reflects Him and the sacrifice He gave.

Your Assignment: Reflect this week on the Passion of Christ. Let's all fast this Good Friday (if you are able to) in remembering his sacrifice for our sins on the cross.

Next Week: John 20:19-31, The Power of Believing

Please note: Will conclude Vital Men on the final week of April and the beginning of May, unless other locations extend their time. We will return the second week of Sept. 2019.