

Mark



Lesson 20-The Resurrection, Appearances, and Final Words of Jesus Focus: Mark 16:1-20

1. Very early in the morning, on the “first day of the week,” after the Sabbath, some of Christ’s followers came looking for him at the tomb (v.1-8)

- a. *These women who came looking for the body of Jesus were the same women who had been standing by to watch Christ as He was dying on the cross (15:40,41). These women had had a great respect and love for Jesus as their Savior. Mary Magdalene had been saved from “seven devils” by the power of Jesus (v.9). **They were bringing spices and ointments to anoint the body of Jesus.** But, why were they coming to the Tomb so early on the first day of the week? Why had they waited until after Jesus was already sealed in the Tomb? They came so early on Sunday morning, because they had all been resting on the Sabbath “according to the commandment” (See Luke 23:54-24:1). They knew the Sabbath day was very important to Jesus so these close followers of Jesus decided to rest on the Sabbath day “according to the commandment” (Luke 23:56). The closest followers of Jesus respected the holiness of the Sabbath day, and they observed it very faithfully. Today, Christ’s faithful followers should do the same. The Sabbath day is the 7th day of the week—the day before Jesus rose from the tomb. We all know that Jesus rose on a Sunday. That means the Sabbath day is actually on Saturday—this is the day which God made holy from Creation and also commands us to keep holy in the Ten Commandments (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11).*
- b. *(v.3-8) The women were concerned about how they could get the stone rolled back from the tomb (since it was so heavy). They were concerned, that is, until they came to the tomb. Then, they found that it had been rolled back. Jesus’ body was gone!! An angel found in the tomb (much to the women’s surprise, and fear) explained that Jesus had been risen from the dead, and they would soon be seeing him. They could hardly believe these words. Nevertheless, Christ’s body was gone!!*
- c. *Jesus is the only one who’s ever conquered death. Even out of all the professed “religious leaders and founders” in the world today, none of them have or can ever claim to have conquered death; Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, etc.—they’ll all still be dead. **But “Christ is risen!!”** He is the “firstfruits...and afterwards those who are His will rise at His coming” (1 Corinthians 15:20,22,23). **Jesus alone holds the “keys to death and hades” (Revelation 1:18).** Jesus has power over the grave. **He is the Life-Giver and death could not hold Him!!** If Jesus holds the power over the grave; If He is the God who can give us life, and who has the true power over life and death, then I want to know Him and to serve Him. And you? I wouldn’t want to serve any kind of “god” who didn’t have real power over the grave—it would be no “god” at all! Why should anyone bow to and serve a powerless “god?” That’s meaningless! Jesus arose to see the “light of life” just like the prophecies foretold (Isaiah 53:10,11).*
- d. ***Could someone have stole Jesus’ body away? Nope. The Jewish leaders and the Roman guards made sure of that** (Reference, Matthew 27:62-66; 28:11-15). The very fact that it was guarded by the soldiers prevented that from being a possibility. However, the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb could not stop Jesus from being raised. They fell like dead men to the ground at the presence of even just one of God’s heavenly angels. They decided to make up a lie that Jesus was stolen away while they slept. However, that would have been a crime punishable by death. Yet, as far as we know, none of them were ever punished for it!*

2. The appearances of Jesus to His disciples after His death and resurrection (v.9-14)

- a. *(v.9-11) **First Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene** (that same morning). She had stayed a little longer in the garden than the other ladies, wondering where Jesus had been taken. We can read about the story in **John 20:13-18**. The disciples did not believe right when they heard the news from her, but later they saw too. After talking with Mary, Christ ascended to heaven to see the Father, then He came back to the earth that same evening. Jesus must have been traveling at nearly the speed of thought as he went to and from heaven.*
- b. *(v.12-14) **Next, Jesus appeared to two of his disciples that same Sunday evening as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus.** Jesus explained the prophecies to them concerning himself, and they realized*

that truly Jesus was the Messiah. They then recognized Christ and ran back to Jerusalem that same evening to tell the other disciples. Jesus then met them all there in the upper room on that same evening. The whole story is told in Luke 24:13-43.

3. Christ spoke His final words to his disciples and then returned to be with His father in heaven until the end of all things when He comes for the 2nd time (v.15-20)

- a. *Christ gave the “Great Commission” to His disciples. He explained to His followers the work that was before them all. This very same work is before every follow of Christ. All of us are to become laborers together with Christ “to seek and to save” the lost (Luke 19:10; Matthew 28:18-20). We are all his disciples if we are sincerely called by the name of Christian (ref. Acts 11:26). **Christ gives to all of his people a Message and a Mission for this life!!** We are to lovingly, unselfishly, kindly, and energetically take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world!! There are souls to save and to gather in for His Kingdom (which is soon to come upon us in all of its power and glory!).*
- b. **(v.16) Christ connects “belief” (faith) and “baptism” with our salvation.** *If we believe in Jesus, we have true faith and we want to follow Him, then we should be baptized as an expression of our true faith in Him. This will symbolize the washing and cleansing away of all of our sins. This is done by full immersion under the water as we see in Bible times. It required “much water” (plenty of...) (John 3:23). This how Jesus Christ teaches us—He was even baptized himself to set an example for us. If we truly want to follow Jesus Christ and to receive His forgiveness of sin and gift of eternal life, then we should be baptized. The things which precede baptism are Repentance and confession of sin (turning away from sins), belief in Jesus, and understanding the basic, essential teachings of God’s word (Acts 2:38; 8:37; 16:30-33; 19:2-5). For these reasons, we do not ever find “baby baptisms” in the Bible or in early Christian history. It must be the choice of someone understands what it means to repent!*
- c. **(v.17,18) The message of Christ went with great power to the world.** *We can read about many of these events happening in the book of Acts (the record of the early church). The power of God still lives and works among His faithful ones today. We don’t always see every particular kind of miracle taking place, but we do see God’s power at work. In the end, we expect that the work of God will finish with no less a powerful display of God’s awesome presence than when it began. We can expect to see many powerful things happening among us and through, especially as we draw nearer to God, and do His work faithfully as He’s called us to; And also as the final moments of sinful history approach us. Revelation 18:1 promises just such power to attend God’s last day message to the world!! **Let us be sure to walk and work faithfully together with God!***
- d. *Not everything which Christ did or taught has been recorded here in this gospel, or even in the other three. But, essential points that we need to know for our faith, have been recorded so that we may believe in Jesus as the Christ—the Messiah of God. And that through believing, we may be saved (John 20:30, 31).*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you seek to know and faithfully follow Jesus Christ now and forever?_____ Would you like to be in the eternal kingdom of Jesus Christ?_____ (to have life through His name) Is it your desire to be baptized as a follower of Jesus Christ for the cleansing away of your sins?_____