

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 16

vs. 1- 8:

On Sunday morning after Jesus death on the cross, three women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome) went to the tomb that Jesus had been laid in. They were going with spices which were used to prepare a body for burial. Jesus had been hastily buried (because the Sabbath would begin in a short time) and His body had not been properly prepared.

The women were discussing how they were going to open the tomb, since a large stone (too big for them to move) had been used to seal it. Upon arriving they saw that the stone had already been removed and they entered to tomb. A young man (an angel) was sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe. This alarmed the women. The angel told them not to be alarmed for Jesus of Nazareth (whome they wee looking for) had risen from the grave. He told them to look or themselves and they would see that He had gone. The angel then instructed the women to tell Jesus' disciples that Jesus would meet thm in Galilee.

The women left quickly, confused and afraid. They did not even dare to tell anyone what had happened.

vs. 9-20:

[The following verses are not in the oldest manuscripts of Mark's Gospel that we have. Some conclude that they were later additions by those copying the Gospel. Others conclude that possibly this section was lost or had been left out of these manuscripts for another reason. Regardless, much of the material found in these verses are substantiated in other passages and can be accepted as true!]

Jesus' resurrection appearances included appearing to Mary Magdalene (He appears to her first; she had, had 7 demons driven out of her by Jesus; then she went and told the disciples who failed to believe), to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus (these also were not believed), and then appeared to the eleven disciples (Judas had committed suicide) while they were eating and rebuked them for their lack of faith and refusal to believe.

Jesus then issues the Great Commision to His disciples to go and preach the gospel. Everyone who accepts it and is baptized shall be saved, whereas those who do not believe (and therefore would not submit to baptism) would be condemned. He tells them that they would perform miracles (we have examples of some of these in Scripture).

Jesus then ascended to heaven and the disciples (starting on the day of Pentecost--Acts 2) fulfilled their mission to preach and substantiate their message with miracles.

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 16

1. Who went to anoint Jesus' body?
2. When did these people go?
3. What question did they ask one another?
4. What had happened to the stone?
5. Who did they see inside?
6. What did this man tell them about Jesus?
7. What instructions were given to the women?
8. How did they leave?
9. According to Mark, who did Jesus appear to first?
10. In verse 12, who did Jesus appear to?
11. For what did Jesus rebuke His disciples?
12. What were the disciples to do?

BONUS

1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus important?
2. Who will be saved and why?
3. What is the importance of Jesus' ascension into heaven?