

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday Morning Bible Study

Mark – Chapter Sixteen

1. When the “Sabbath was past;” What day was it then?

2. The two Marys’ and Salome went to the tomb. Why did they wait? Why did they go?

3. What concern did these women have? What does this tell us?

4. What was the first thing the women found or noticed as they approached the tomb?

5. What did they find as they entered the tomb? How did they react? Why?

6. What didn't they find as they arrived at the tomb? Why? (Matthew 28:11-15)

7. We speak of intentional ministry at Zion. One of the hallmarks of intentional ministry is being very clear and precise with the words we use when sharing the Gospel. Consider the opening line of the angel, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified." How is this intentional?

8. Notice the precision of the angel's next statement, "He is risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him." What did the angel leave out between the two passages? Why?

9. The angel's next words are very similar to Jesus' in Matthew 28:19-20. What action word do these two passages share? What is the implication of this?

10. Why would the angel say, "tell His disciples and Peter?" Why not just say, "Tell His disciples?"

11. “They said nothing to anyone.” Compare this statement to Matthew 28:8. How do we reconcile this?

Your Bible probably has a note that says, “Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.” We can add to that. The style of the Greek in verses 9-20 is different from the rest of the Gospel. It appears that these words were added by some scribe between Mark’s writing of the Gospel and later copies. Why would a scribe do this? Scrolls and early codex’s (bound books) were very fragile and did not last too long. It is hard to believe that Mark would end with the women leaving and not include Christ’s appearance to the disciples and the restoration of Peter. Mark seems to be posed to share that account. It is most likely that the copy of Mark upon which later copies were based had lost the last part of the scroll or pages of the book. Some scribe, realizing that part was missing, probably inserted this section as a summary of the three other Gospels. Others, not willing to add to the Word of God, left it the way they had received it. For that reason, we should be careful with these verses and not regard them as absolutely inspired and inerrant. However, there are still those things that we can learn from this section that are consistent with or fits well with the other Gospels.

12. What do we learn about Mary Magdalene? (Luke 8:2)

13. Which other Gospel(s) includes Jesus meeting two disciples “walking into the country?”

14. When else do we hear to “go into all the world?”

15. Where else do we hear about the disciples’ unbelief?

16. Where else is the ascension recorded?

17. Where do we see the disciples doing miraculous signs?

18. Review your answers to the last questions. Why/What did the scribe use when making this ending?

19. Verses 17 and 18 are the verses that pose some trouble. While Jesus did tell His disciples that He gave them power to cast out demons and heal every disease and affliction (Matthew 10:1) and St. Paul was bitten by a venomous serpent (Acts 28:3-5), fulfilling what is said, Jesus Himself said something that contradicts how some interpret these verses. Read Matthew 4:1-11. How would Jesus respond to someone who quotes Mark 16:17-18 and says, “If you are disciple of Jesus you must prove your faith by picking up a poisonous serpent or drinking a cup of poison?”

20. Finally, ending on a high note, read verse 16. What is required for salvation? By what is one condemned? Why the discrepancy?
