

Gospel of Mark: Following Jesus Christ

Following Jesus Christ in Victory

MARK 16

Overview

At the close of his gospel, Mark ends on the high note. The tomb was empty. Death lost the war. Jesus won. All who put their faith in him live in the resurrection life he provides. The response that remains for the church of every generation is to celebrate and proclaim the wonders of the cross and the glory of the resurrection.

Notes

The visit to the tomb is vintage Markan irony: the living are consumed with death, but the Crucified One is consumed with life (James Edwards).

The greatest barrier to the human condition was replaced with divine victory. The stone was rolled away and the power of death was fatally wounded. Death lost. Jesus won. That is the Gospel. It's why we exist and Mark put it on full display.

It is not that the resurrection accomplished our justification — Jesus' sinless life and sin-bearing death did that — but rather it assures us of our justification...by that act God declared that Christ's atoning sacrifice had been accepted. The penalty for our sins was paid in full (Jerry Bridges).

Jesus is not on the cross anymore and the tomb is empty. Your sins have been paid for and death lost the war. Satan is beaten and the Gospel remains the power of God.

Reflection Questions

1. Who are you telling about the empty tomb? How did Jesus demonstrate His trust in the plan of His Father? Are there specific ways in your life that you are consciously following the Father's plan?
2. What has stood out most to you about Jesus from the beginning of Mark's gospel? Why?
3. What do you notice about the women in verses 1-8? Why do you think they reacted the way they did? How might you have reacted?
4. Why did the angel call out Peter in verse 7? How does that give you hope in your own failures?
5. Verse 6 is a brief explanation of the gospel. Unpack the importance of each element. What happens if any one of them is missing?
6. What is the right response to the empty tomb? How does that impact your Christian life today? Should anything change?