

Mark: Chapter 16

Disciple/apostle = learn/do.

This is the final chapter of *Mark*: resurrection, ascension, and final instructions to the disciples.

Mark 16:1 “And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.” Again, as the woman who did “what she could” and anointed Jesus before the crucifixion with expensive oil, these woman came after the crucifixion to anoint him. Always do what you can.

Mark 16:2-4 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.” It was still dark. Surely, no one could sleep. Shock. Mourning.



This ongoing lesson for us as present-day disciples is *do what you can*. Every act of love is appreciated and recompensed with spiritual gain and spiritual power. Every little expression of care is known to God and is blessed by Him. Maybe you feel that your efforts were small in some situation, that they could not amount to much, but *if you did what you could* — your love and care enriched and helped it. *Do what you can* and the Father loves you for it.



So the women brought spices to anoint Jesus' body. They came, not knowing how the stone would be removed, but that did not stop them. Go forward and let God roll away any obstacles.

Do what you can. The stone that has been rolled away is the belief that death

and the grave conquer man; Jesus proved Life to be supreme, all-powerful, and the forgiveness and Love deliver us from all evil. Nothing can get between you and God, you and Life. Nothing can separate you from God, you from Life.

Mark 16:5-8 “And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.”

The darkest, most fearful place to imagine — a grave. This looked like a cave with no way out. Jesus was wrapped in linen and carried there. His non-breathing body was laid there. Yet he emerged victorious in Life. An angel was there. The women saw him. He spoke to them and explained that Jesus had done exactly what he had told them, he had come forth in life. Jesus would meet the disciples in Galilee. The women were entrusted with this most incredible and important message. But they failed — they failed for fear.



The women, so incredibly terrified, were unable to obey the angel's explicit directions. They were scared beyond belief. But who knows what the "young man ... clothed in a long white garment" looked like or sounded like! Enough that he was inside the tomb just sitting there! And no body — no body to anoint — Jesus gone! This event was way beyond the women's comprehension. They were in such terror that they said nothing to anyone.

I have to wonder how they felt later after seeing Jesus had risen and was walking around as before! Let us pray never to be so paralyzed by fear as to not obey God's directions, the messages of angels as they whisper to our consciousness.

Mark 16:9-10 "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept." Mary Magdalene proved able to convey the message that the other women could not. Mark continues, "And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not." The disciples did not believe Mary Magdalene. Jesus was not pleased with them for this.

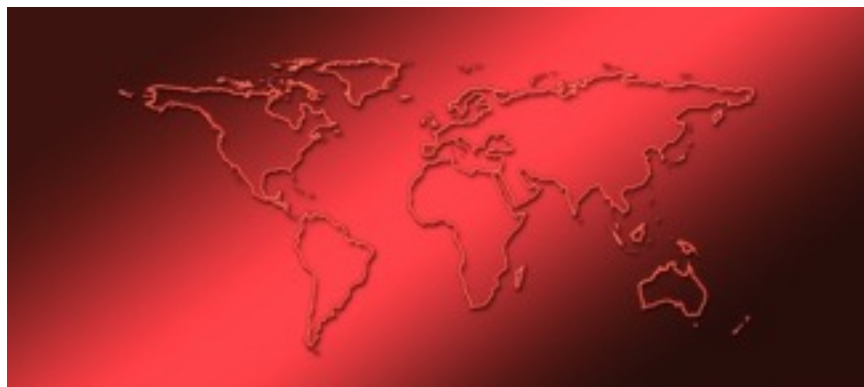
Mark 16:12-13 "After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them." The disciples did not believe that the two men saw and spoke with our Master, and again, Jesus was not pleased with his disciples. Jesus, loving his own disciples so much, wanted them to know as soon as possible, that he was all right, that he had risen, and that he would meet them. He told two groups and one individual to let the disciples know right away. Two of the three succeeded, but the disciples could not fathom it.



Finally, Jesus comes in person to the doubting, disappointing disciples. Why did they not believe? He had told them what was going to happen. They had witness the Master resurrecting others, bringing Lazarus forth from the grave, doing all manner of “miracles” in uncountable quantities — but this — they could not believe. The lesson of eternal Life and omnipotent Love had to be taught, and Jesus taught it through sacrifice.

Mark 16:14 “Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.” I would not want to be “upbraided” by Jesus. In *Science and Health*, Mary Baker Eddy writes, “His rebuke was fearful.” I’m sure it was. His rebuke dried up the roots of a fig tree that had produced no fruit; his rebuke, his upbraiding, is not something any of us would want to endure. What we do want is to please him. We must believe everything that he said. This includes truly believing completely that we can do the things he did, as he said, “The works that I do, shall ye do also.” Do not doubt; you will be upbraided. It is God that does the work, that imparts the truth and spiritual sense we need for healing.

Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” How can we do this? We can “go” globally now through the internet and technology, and we can “go” by flight, or by foot.



We must listen angel messages from the divine coming to our prayerful listening consciousness, and then “go” each day where Spirit and Love lead.



Mark 16:18 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."



These signs, these manifestations, must follow you, because you are a present-day disciple of Jesus, and you do believe his words and promises.

1.Cast out devils, or evil, in the name of Jesus

2.Speak with new tongues, Spirit's language — angel messages

3. Take up serpents — disprove lies, beliefs, and negative mesmeric suggestions
4. if you come in contact with anything lethal — you are not going to be harmed
5. lay your hands on the sick (your spiritual power reflected of Omnipotence) — and they recover — you can heal as Jesus healed (he is telling you this explicitly).

We must BELIEVE him or we are like the ones he upbraided.

Declare that you do believe and that you can do these things because Jesus said so.

Mark 16:19 “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.



Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” The Lord is working with you. The Word you speak is confirmed in the signs, and they do follow you. Amen and amen.

Assignment

Pray with the list of five things that Jesus promised to “them that believe.”

Be mindful of these and practice them.

When you lay your hands on the sick (not just physically, but when you embrace someone in prayer for healing) know that the Lord is confirming His Word with the “sign following” — healing.

Write notes in your Journal concerning your experiences as you focus on these “signs that follow them that believe.”

Final Assignment

Review your journal.

Pray with the ideas you have recorded there.

Pledge and promise anew to be a good and worthy disciple of Jesus — a present-day disciple working in the power of Spirit and Love.

PLEASE WATCH FOR PART TWO — *Matthew*