

PART ONE: He is Risen!

Mark 15:42 – 16:20

Read Mark 15:42-47.

1. Record everything the following passages tell us about Joseph of Arimathea. (Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-46, Luke 23:50-53 and John 19:38-42)

2. **THINK:** Why do you think going to see Pilate and asking for the body of Jesus required courage, especially for Joseph?

3. What did Pilate do before releasing Jesus' body to Joseph?

Roman law dictated the loss of all honors in death, and even the right of burial was determined by magisterial decree... It was not at all uncommon for a body to be left upon a cross either to rot or to be eaten by predatory birds or animals.

- William L. Lane

4. According to John 19:39, who came with Joseph? _____

5. Record everything John 3 and John 7:45-53 tell us about this man.

6. Describe what Joseph and Nicodemus did with the body of Jesus. (Mark 15:46, John 19:39-42)

Matthew 27:60 indicates that they put Jesus' body in "his (Joseph's) new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock." Some believe the tomb was meant for Joseph; others raise a question because of its proximity to a place of execution (John 19:41). Being a man of wealth, it is unlikely that Joseph's tomb would have been anywhere near an area where the execution of criminals took place. This would then suggest that Joseph had this tomb specifically made for Jesus ahead of time. The men also had a large amount of spices on hand (John 19:39), spices that would have needed to be purchased before the shops closed for the Passover celebration. Warren Wiersbe, in his commentary, speculates that the two men may have searched the Scriptures and understood that the Lamb of God would die at Passover. Following the Lord's leading, they chose to make preparations, making it possible for them to care for the body of Jesus after his death. These two secret believers may have missed out on serving Jesus while He was alive, but they overcame their fear and boldly served Him in His death.

7. Describe how you would like your service to the Lord to be characterized.

Read Mark 16:1-13.

8. Early in the morning, after the Sabbath had ended, a group of women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. What was their primary concern as they journeyed to the tomb? (v. 3)

9. If the women knew that a large stone blocked the entrance to the tomb and that Pilate had ordered a Roman guard to stand watch over the grave, what do you think motivated them to try and anoint the body of Jesus despite the obstacles they would face?

10. What motivates you to serve the Lord despite the presence of obstacles?

Imagine their surprise when they arrived and found the stone moved and Roman guards nowhere in sight!

11. Recall a time when the Lord asked you to do something that seemed impossible only to have Him remove the obstacles you had been worried about.

12. **THINK:** John 20:19 reveals that Jesus was able to move through locked doors. Why do you think the stone was rolled away at the time of Jesus' resurrection?

13. How did the woman react to the empty tomb and the presence of the young man clothed in white? (v. 5)

Alarmed – to be struck with terror

14. What good news did he use to calm their fears? (v. 6)

15. How can this same good news calm your fears today?

16. Once they had heard the good news, what did he want them to do with that good news? (v. 7)

17. **THINK:** Why do you think Peter was mentioned by name? What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to take away from his name being singled out?

The women left the tomb. The Gospel of John tells us that Mary Magdalene ran to tell Peter and returned to the tomb with Peter and John. This same Gospel indicates that despite what the young man had said, Mary was still unsure what had happened and speculated that someone had taken the body of Jesus.

18. Record what the Bible tells us about Mary Magdalene. (Luke 8:1-3, John 19:25, Mark 15:47)

Peter and John left the tomb, but Mary remained. Read John 20:11-18 for a more complete picture of Jesus appearing to Mary in the garden.

19. What caused Mary to recognize Jesus? (John 20:16)

No doubt Mary had heard Jesus call her name many times. Instantly, she responds, "Rabboni." Jesus tells Mary to not cling to Him as just a man of flesh but to recognize Him as the Son of God – LORD and Savior. Jesus would ascend to the Father and send the Holy Spirit to her, allowing her to be closer to God than she ever could have been during His life on earth.

20. What did Jesus want her to do instead, and how did she respond? (John 20:17-18)

21. **THINK:** Why do you think Jesus referred to the disciples as “My brethren” at this point?

It appears Mary was not the only one who was struggling with the idea that Jesus was alive. When she went and told the disciples, they did not believe her.

Jesus then appears to two of His followers on the road to Emmaus. Read the full account in Luke 24:13-31.

Picture Jesus sitting at the table with these two fellow travelers; Jesus took the bread, broke it, and passed it to them. Taking the bread from His hands, they immediately knew Him to be Jesus. What was it about this scene that opened their eyes and made them realize that this was Jesus—the same Jesus who had been hanging on a cross only a few days earlier?

The frugal meal became a sacrament, and the home became a House of God. That’s what Christ does wherever He goes. They who entertain Him will be well entertained. The two had opened to Him their home, and now He opens their eyes.

- Daily Notes of the Scripture Union

Read Mark 16:14-20.

22. What did Jesus do when he appeared to the eleven? (v.14)

Rebuke – to reproach, upbraid, revile

23. Using a standard dictionary look up the following words:

Reproach _____

Upbraid _____

Unbelief – want of faith, unbelief: shown in withholding belief in the divine power

Hardness of Heart – destitution of spiritual perception

24. **THINK:** With these definitions in mind, why do you think the matter of their unbelief and hardness of heart was so important to Jesus at this point?

25. What two things did Jesus command the disciples to do after He rebuked them? (v. 15)

26. Summarize the vital truths outlined by Jesus in verse 16.

Believe – used emphatically, of those who acknowledge Jesus as their Savior and devote themselves to Him

Saved – to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment

Condemned – to give judgment against, to judge worthy of punishment to condemn; of God condemning one to eternal misery

Mark 16:16 makes it seem that baptism is required for salvation, but we must consider the whole counsel of God when making statements about the doctrines taught in the Bible.

27. Read the following verses and record what they teach regarding salvation.

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

John 3:18 _____

John 5:24 _____

John 20:31 _____

While this verse tells us something about believers who have been baptized (they are saved), it does not say anything about believers who have *not* been baptized. In order for this verse to teach that baptism is necessary for salvation, a third statement would be necessary, viz., “He who believes and is not baptized will be condemned” or “He who is not baptized will be condemned.” But, of course, neither of these statements is found in the verse.

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These were exciting and daunting times. The disciples had been charged with venturing out across the globe to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No doubt they wondered about what they might encounter along the way, but Jesus promised His will would stand in any situation they might face. Not a demon, an unknown language, a snake, or even poison would thwart the will of God. They could rest in knowing that even though Jesus would no longer be with them physically, He would still be in control. No wonder Jesus needed them to be firm in their belief in His divine power.

28. Read the following verses and record any circumstances where Jesus’ words proved to be true regarding His will prevailing in both protection and miraculous signs during the birth of the early church, as recorded in the book of Acts.

Acts 8:5-7 _____

Acts 2:4-6 _____

Acts 28:3-6 _____

Acts 28:8-9 _____

29. Go back and record the words of Jesus found in Mark 1:38.

30. What is the message Jesus came to preach? (Mark 1:15)

Jesus had indeed fulfilled His purpose. He had come and proclaimed the good news of the Gospel. Having lived a sinless life, He sacrificed Himself, the Perfect Lamb, to take

away the sins of the world. Now, it was time for Him to return to His rightful place at the right hand of God.

31. It must have been hard to think of Jesus going away after all that had happened. Why was Jesus returning to Heaven to their and our advantage? (John 16:7-15)

32. What did the disciples do after Jesus returned to Heaven? (Mark 16:20)

33. What did the Lord do? (Mark 16:20)

34. In Matthew 5–7, Jesus shared what it looks like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 5:13-16 to understand Jesus' desire for those who follow Him. Now, seek the Lord for direction on how you can better glorify the Father in Heaven as you "Go" forward from this study of the life of Jesus, the Great Servant, as recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

PART TWO: How Jesus Views and Values Women

Mark 16:1

Our culture today claims the Bible is outdated in its view of women. Modern-day feminists would blame the Bible for patriarchal oppression. However, it was our Lord Jesus who set the standard for how women should be valued.

Read Mark 15:40-41 and 16:1-2. The fact that women were at the cross showed they were loyal followers of Jesus.

35. List the women from these verses and the details about how they viewed Jesus and what they wanted to do for Him.

36. What does their view of Jesus tell you about His view of them?

37. At the time of Jesus, women were viewed as second-class citizens. For an example of this, look up John 4:27. What was the disciples' reaction to Jesus talking with a woman?

Jesus' regard for women was revolutionary for His time. Let's look through the Gospels to see Jesus' approach to women.

38. Look up the following passages and record who the woman was and how Jesus responded.

Mark 5:25-34

Luke 13:10-13

John 4:7-26

John 8:3-11

39. In Luke 13:16, what does Jesus call the woman who was bent over?

In doing this, Jesus affirms that her status is the same as that of a man (son of Abraham). In Mark 5:34, Jesus also calls the woman who had the issue of blood, daughter. In calling the woman “Daughter,” Jesus was showing affection.

40. Consider Jesus’ interaction and response with women in the Gospels. Also, consider their response to Jesus, both at the tomb and in the Scriptures you looked up. What can you conclude about Jesus’ valuation of women?

41. What can you now conclude about Jesus’ valuation of you?

As we end our study in Mark, take time to thank Jesus for His love for you, His daughter, and for His perfect portrayal of servanthood.