The Ministry of Jesus According to Mark

Lesson 10: The Story Ends With You

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LESSON OBJECTIVES

Goals

1. To review our study of Mark together
2. To emphasize the importance of Jesus’ resurrection from the dead
3. To inspire students to live out their salvation with fear and trembling

Topics

Apostles, Believing, Evangelism, Fearing God, Resurrection, Salvation

Scripture Memorization

Mark 16:16

OPENING PRAYER (5 to 10 minutes)

GROUP BUILDING (7 minutes)

Have the students stand in a large circle. Explain that each of them will have an opportunity to add to the story that you will start. Use a pair of rolled up socks to signify whose turn it is to speak.

Start the story and then pass the rolled up socks to the person on your right. The next person has the opportunity to add to the story or not, then pass the rolled up socks to the person to his or her right. The story ends when the socks make it back to the teacher.

Discuss how the story may have been different if everyone had, or had not, took part in telling the story. What would have happened if no one participated?

GETTING STARTED (5 minutes)

This is the last lesson in our study of Mark. Before we dive in to chapter 16, let’s review what we have covered so far.

• The book of Mark  focuses on Jesus’ service and sacrifice
• First Gospel written
• Omitted unimportant things to Gentiles like genealogy of Christ, fulfilled prophesy, references to the Law, and some Jewish customs
• Distinctive word of Mark’s gospel, euthus or immediately, which was used 40 times
• Miracles are predominant (show Christ’s compassion) 18 of them
• Key verses: Mark 10:43-45; Mark 8:34-37
• Gives a crisp and fast moving look at Christ
• 40% of the book focuses on the last 8 days of Christ’s life
• The “Sports Center” gospel- focuses on the highlights

**General Discussion:**1. What do you think is the most important thing that Mark has said so far?
2. What could he possibly add, here at the end, that is more important?

DIGGING IN (30 minutes)

Today we are going to finish our study of the book of Mark. The last things that are said are some of the most important things in the entire Gospel.

Before we get to Mark, turn to 1 Corinthians.

 **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-14**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. What is this passage about? *(The resurrection of Jesus)*2. What importance does this scripture put on the resurrection? *(High importance)*3. When have we heard Mark talk about the resurrection? *(We haven’t yet)*

That leads us to the last words of Mark, so turn to Mark 16.

**Read Mark 16:1-8**It is interesting that this story contains three women. This alone speaks to the validity of the text. In Greco-Roman culture, women were not equal to men. Therefore, the early church would not have made up this story and made the people who found the grave be women.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Whom do the women encounter? *(A young man/angel)*2. What were the women’s reaction? *(Fear)*3. How did their reaction change once they saw the empty tomb? *(They were terrified)*4. Is this the reaction you expected? Why/why not?
5. Why do you think the women were afraid? *(They may have thought they were being watched or that Jesus' body had been stolen.)* **Read Mark 16:9-20**

*(Note to Teacher: most Bibles document that these verses are not included in the earliest manuscripts of the gospel of Mark. We are not here to settle that textual question and will study these verses just like the others.)*
**Discussion Questions:**
1. What causes Mary to finally believe? *(Jesus comes to her)*2. What is her reaction? *(To go spread the news of Jesus’ resurrection)*3. Did people believe what Jesus told them would happen? *(No)*4. Do you ever have trouble believing that something the Bible says is true? Can you provide eamples?5. Verses 15-18 are much like the Great Commission from Matthew 28:18-20. What is different here? *(Snake handling and poison drinking)*6. Why do you think those things are included? *(Not sure, but they both indicate God’s power in light of Jesus’ resurrection)*

By ending without a lot of importance shown to Jesus’ return to earth, Mark shows us that the Christian faith is not dependent upon signs and miracles, or even appearances from the risen Lord. Instead, his focus has been Jesus’ ministry, which is now complete. The big ending was the fact that He rose from the dead.

MAKING IT REAL (10 minutes)

What if that isn’t the end?

Mark challenged the disciples of his day (his original audience) to live and witness for the Lord in the present and in the future. He challenges us to do the same.

**General Discussion:**
1. How does the message of Mark, particularly the way it ends, impact your life?
2. Do you think there is a difference between a person who believes something and lives out something?
3. What is the difference?

Jesus has risen from the dead. That caused the women to shake with fright. If you truly believe this, it should affect all aspects of your life.

**Read Philippians 2:12-13

Discussion Questions:**
1. How do these verses say we should live our lives? *(With fear and trembling)*2. How does this connect with the Mark 16 passage we read earlier? *(Our lives should also be dramatically impacted by the fact that Jesus rose from the dead)*3. Whose plan and purpose is it that we are living anyway? *(God’s)*

Remember, we are not our own. The earliest disciples realized this, and moved by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, they changed the world. Imagine what you could do if you had the same frame of mind!

Let’s pray that we can have the same kind of attitude and God can use us in the same way.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

Pray for your students to live out their salvation with fear and trembling.