

March 31, 2024



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus conquered evil and death so that we could live bold and free. This changes everything.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear God, allow me to see how Jesus' resurrection changes everything about my life, now and forever.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

(1 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", April 17, 2022)

Series: Examining Our Faith

UNIT 1: Faithful vs. Faithless

NEXT WEEK

Faith of the Persistent
(Luke 5:17-26)

The Resurrection: Key to Faith Mark 16:1-8

Lesson Background and Key Verse

Tradition tells us that the Gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, an associate of Peter and Paul (see Acts 12:12; 1 Peter 5:13). This man was not an apostle. But he was a close relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), who probably convinced Paul (Saul) to take John Mark on that apostle's first missionary journey (Acts 12:25). John Mark abandoned the trip before its conclusion (13:13). This put him in disfavor with Paul (15:36-39), although the two later reconciled (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24). Students propose that Mark's Gospel account is based on Peter's firsthand experiences with the person and ministry of Jesus, given the closeness of Mark to Peter in light of Peter calling him "my son" (1 Peter 5:13).

Although Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four, its narrative packs a punch! Students frequently call it "the Gospel of action." This designation stems from the fact that Mark jumps quickly from scene to scene to chronicle Jesus' ministry. The Gospel's description of the last week of Jesus' ministry highlights its inclination toward action. Of the nearly 700 verses of the Gospel, 241 of them, more than one-third of the Gospel, recount events from that week (Mark 11:1-16:8). In describing scenes from that week, the Gospel jumps quickly between scenes. Mark tells us how Jesus entered Jerusalem on that Sunday (11:1-11) and taught others regarding righteousness (11:12-25; 12:28-34). On that Thursday, he ate a final meal (14:12-31) before he was arrested (14:43-52) and tried (14:53-65; 15:1-15). Finally, on that Friday, he was crucified and killed at the hands of Roman soldiers (15:16-41).

Friday evening of that week, Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, approached Pontius Pilate to ask for Jesus' body (Mark 15:43). Before granting the request, Pilate wanted confirmation that Jesus was truly dead (15:44-45). There was to be no doubt on the part of Pilate that Jesus was indeed dead. Once Pilate received this verification, Joseph took Jesus' body and prepared it for burial. To begin the burial proceedings, Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linen (Mark 15:46a). The Gospels do not indicate whether or not Jesus' body was washed as was customary at this time (example: Acts 9:37). Joseph then placed the body in a rock tomb sealed with a stone (Mark 15:46b). After the burial, two women observed the burial location (15:47). They would return after Sabbath to finish caring for Jesus' body. Some students believe that the original ending to this Gospel came at Mark 16:8 and that Mark 16:9-20 was a later addition in the decades after Mark wrote. Much of the information in verses 9-20 is reflected in the other Gospels (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:13-43, 50-51; John 20:14-18). In this lesson, we will engage in a what-if. What if Mark did end at verse 8? What could that abrupt ending teach us today?

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Key Verse: Mark 16:6

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

FAITH THROUGH ANTICIPATION (MARK 16:1-5)

Anticipation of the anointing (1-2)

Anointing that comes from God pouring out His Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)

Anointing from the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20)

Anointing that teaches all things (1 John 2:27)

Anointing that saves (Ps 20:6)

Anointing that empowers to stand firm (2 Cor 1:21-22)

Anointing that opens spiritual eyes (Rev 3:18)

Anticipation of removing obstacles (3-4)

God makes the way of the righteous smooth (Isa 26:7)

God removes obstacles through guidance (Isa 42:16)

God removes obstacles by going before His anointed (Isa 45:1-3)

God removes obstacles through His rod and staff (Ps 23:2-4)

Anticipation of angelic messages (5)

Messages that are binding (Heb 2:2-3)

Messages that open doors (Acts 5:18-20)

Messages that brings saving information (Acts 11:13-14)

Messages that are encouraging (Acts 13:15)

Messages that are heard through the word of God (Rom 10:17)

Messages that are consistent about loving one another (1 John 3:11)

FAITH IN THE RESURRECTION (MARK 16:6-8)

Resurrection assurance (6)

Assurance that is based on Scripture (1 Cor 15:3-4)

Assurance through being united with Jesus (Rom 6:5)

Assurance through preaching (1 Cor 15:12-14)

Assurance through a new birth and living hope (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Assurance through baptism (1 Peter 3:17-21)

Seeking a resurrected Jesus (7)

A resurrected Jesus who was seen for many days by those who traveled with Him (Acts 13:28-31)

A resurrected Jesus that appeared to more than five hundred people (1 Cor 15:3-8)

A resurrected Jesus who will find us even when we don't seek Him (Rom 10:20)

A resurrected Jesus who rewards those who seek Him (Heb 11:6)

Resurrection amazement (8)

Amazed because of doubt (Luke 24:37-39)

Amazed through burning hearts (Luke 24:30-32)

Amazed that Jesus ate after resurrection (John 21:7-14)

Amazed that Jesus could come through locked doors (John 20:26-29)