



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM
FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: Dec. 17, 2017
"He Has Risen"
PASSAGE: Mark 16

1. Read Mark 16:1-8 and John 12:38-44. What makes Jesus' death and resurrection much different than the death and resurrection of Lazarus? (Consider Acts 2:24; Romans 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Hebrews 2:14-17.) This is the only event of its kind in the history of the world. In particular, how does the resurrection of Jesus affect your witness, worship and pursuit of God?

2. Mark 16:1-6 tells us the women were "alarmed," they were terrified. Why are they told not to be scared and what is the focus of the explanation? What is the resulting action they were called to take in verse 7? In what ways would it have been tempting to focus on the tomb, returning to the tomb daily, or claiming it as a historical site? What signs might show us when good things, even godly things, are keeping our focus off of Jesus?

3. We do not have an empty tomb to take people to, and even though the disciples did, we don't read in scripture that they kept coming back to it. What did they have that was an infinitely more powerful testimony? Be honest: Are you convinced, or would you be more excited to show people an empty tomb? Consider Mark 16:8 and the reaction of the women to what they had seen. When you consider the gospel, what astounds you?

4. The days leading up Jesus' death and even after his resurrection would have been filled with terror, confusion, guilt (for guys like Peter), grieving, etc. Why is the last part of verse 7 so important in this context? When you find yourself in similar situations, how can you apply the truth found at the end of verse 7?

5. Regarding the last part of Mark 16 the ESV states, "Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20." What is your #1 reason for believing your Bible is reliable and what does it have to do with the character of God? What are the implications of your convictions regarding scripture?

Consider the following quote by John MacArthur from Shepherds Conference 2012:
"I suppose I could have begun the 43-year effort with a long defense of Scripture's authenticity, or Scripture's authority, or Scripture's inspiration, or Scripture's inerrancy, and accuracy, and sufficiency and while through the years I talked about those things when the Scripture talked about them, I didn't do that. I have believed that the Scripture is its own defense. I have believed that the Scripture examined and the Scripture understood will make its own case for its authority and inerrancy. I am a pre suppositionalist in that sense. God doesn't try to prove the Bible to be true, He simply declares the truth. I have never tried to prove to the congregation of Grace Church that what we are reading and what we are hearing is God's Word. I haven't needed to do that because Scripture is its own peerless advocate. Its accuracy and its truthfulness, its clarity, its power are obvious as its content accumulates. And the weight of it increases and increases and increases. And correspondingly doubt diminishes and disappears."

What are you most thankful for regarding the Word of God?

e. BREAKOUT

Mark 16:9-20 is a response to the events surrounding Jesus death and resurrection, and particularly the claim of the book of Mark that Jesus is the "Son of God." List 5 implications to this truth that are mind-blowing. How are you responding to each?

Memory Verse

Mark 16:15-16 "And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."