CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mark Chapter 16 —
The Risen Lord

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Mark Chapter 16 is the last chapter of Mark's Gospel.

It is the chapter of victory.

Jesus had been crucified and buried.

The stone had been rolled across the tomb.

His followers were grieving.

But early on Sunday morning, everything changed.

Women came to the tomb with spices.

They found the stone rolled away.

A young man in white told them the greatest news ever spoken.

"He has risen! He is not here."

Then Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, to two followers on the road, and to the eleven.

He sent them into all the world with the good news.

And He was taken up into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of God.

A note about the ending of Mark:

Some of the oldest and most respected copies of Mark end at verse 8.

Most later copies include verses 9–20, which this Bible includes.

Bible students hold different views about these verses.

Some believe Mark's original ending was lost.

Some believe Mark ended at verse 8 on purpose, leaving readers to respond.

Many believe verses 9–20 were added early to summarize resurrection appearances found in the other Gospels and Acts.

Almost everything in verses 9–20 is also taught elsewhere in the New Testament.

This study explains these verses carefully, comparing them with the rest of Scripture.

The chapter moves through four movements:

- The Empty Tomb (verses 1–8).
- Appearances of the Risen Christ (verses 9–14).

- The Great Commission (verses 15–18).
- The Ascension of Jesus (verses 19–20).

The central truth of Mark 16 is:

Jesus Christ, who was crucified, has risen from the dead, appeared to His followers, sent them into all the world with the good news, and now reigns at the right hand of God, working with His people as they proclaim Him.

I. WHEN THE SABBATH WAS OVER

Mark 16:1 — Buying Spices

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to anoint Jesus' body.”

“When the Sabbath was over.”

The Sabbath ended at sunset on Saturday.

“Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome.”

The same faithful women who watched Jesus die and saw where He was buried.

“Bought spices to anoint Jesus' body.”

They came to honor His body.

They expected to find Him dead.

They came in love, not expecting a miracle.

Cross References

Matthew 28:1

> After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

Luke 23:56

> The women went home and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested, as the law commanded.

John 19:40

> They wrapped Jesus' body in strips of linen with the spices, as was the Jewish custom of burial.

Spiritual Principle

Faithful love serves Jesus even when hope seems lost.

Key Truth

The women came to anoint a dead body and found a living Lord.

II. VERY EARLY ON THE FIRST DAY

Mark 16:2 — Just After Sunrise

“Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they went to the tomb.”

“Very early on the first day of the week.”

Sunday morning.

The day after the Sabbath.

This became the day Christians gather to worship, remembering the resurrection.

“Just after sunrise.”

As the sun rose, the Son had already risen.

“They went to the tomb.”

They went to the place of death.

Cross References

Matthew 28:1

> At dawn on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb.

Luke 24:1

> Very early on the first day of the week, the women came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared.

John 20:1

> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away.

Spiritual Principle

The resurrection marks a new beginning, a new first day.

Key Truth

The first day of the week became the first day of new creation.

III. WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?

Mark 16:3 — A Worried Question

“On the way, they asked each other, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb?””

The women had a problem.

The stone was huge.

They could not move it themselves.

They were worried about something God had already taken care of.

How often we worry about stones God has already moved.

Cross References

Matthew 28:2

> There was a strong earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it.

Luke 24:2

> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

John 20:1

> She saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance.

Spiritual Principle

God often removes obstacles before we reach them.

Application

What “stone” are you worrying about that God may have already moved?

IV. ALREADY ROLLED AWAY

Mark 16:4 — A Very Large Stone

“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled away.”

“When they looked up.”

They lifted their eyes.

“They saw that the stone… had already been rolled away.”

The problem was already solved.

“Which was very large.”

Mark emphasizes its size.

No one could have moved it easily.

The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus out.

It was rolled away to let the witnesses in.

Cross References

Matthew 28:2

An angel rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Luke 24:2

The stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

John 20:1

The stone had been removed from the tomb.

Spiritual Principle

What seems impossible to us is already done by God.

Key Truth

The stone was moved so the world could see the tomb was empty.

V. A YOUNG MAN IN WHITE

Mark 16:5 — They Were Alarmed

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.”

“They saw a young man dressed in a white robe.”

Matthew calls him an angel.

White robes showed heavenly glory.

“Sitting on the right side.”

A place of honor and good news.

“And they were alarmed.”

They were shocked and afraid.

They expected a body, not a messenger from heaven.

Cross References

Matthew 28:3

> The angel's face was bright like lightning, and his clothing was snow-white.

Luke 24:4

> While they were wondering about this, two men in shining clothes suddenly stood beside them.

John 20:12

> She saw two angels dressed in white, sitting where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

Spiritual Principle

God sends His messengers to announce His mighty works.

Key Truth

Heaven came to the tomb to tell the good news.

VI. HE HAS RISEN!

Mark 16:6 — He Is Not Here

“He said to them, “Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”

“Do not be afraid.”

Good news replaces fear.

“You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.”

Yes, the same Jesus.

The One who died.

“He has risen!”

The greatest news in history.

Death could not hold Him.

“He is not here.”

The tomb was empty.

“See the place where they laid Him.”

They could see for themselves.

The resurrection is not a myth.

It is a fact witnessed by real people.

Cross References

Matthew 28:6

> He is not in this place. He was raised, just as He promised. Come look at the spot where He was lying.

Luke 24:6

> He is not here; He has come back to life! Think back to what He told you while He was still in Galilee.

1 Corinthians 15:4

> He was put in a grave, and on the third day God brought Him back to life, just as the Scriptures had said.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus truly rose from the dead, conquering death forever.

Key Truth

The crucified One is the risen One.

VII. AND PETER

Mark 16:7 — Go Tell His Disciples

“But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.’”

“But go, tell His disciples.”

The women became the first messengers of the resurrection.

“And Peter.”

Only Mark includes these two words.

Peter had denied Jesus three times.

He must have thought he was finished.

But Jesus named him especially.

Peter was not forgotten.

He was still wanted.

“He is going ahead of you into Galilee.”

Just as Jesus promised in Chapter 14.

“There you will see Him, just as He told you.”

Jesus keeps His promises.

Cross References

Matthew 28:7

> Go quickly and tell His followers, “He has risen from the dead. He is going into Galilee ahead of you, and you will see Him there.”

Mark 14:28

> But after I rise from the dead, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

John 21:1

> Later, Jesus showed Himself to His followers again by Lake Galilee.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus seeks out those who have failed Him and calls them back.

Key Truth

Two words, “and Peter,” carry a world of grace.

VIII. TREMBLING AND BEWILDERED

Mark 16:8 — They Were Afraid

“Trembling and bewildered, the women ran from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone at first, because they were afraid.”

“Trembling and bewildered.”

They were overwhelmed.

This was too great to understand.

“The women ran from the tomb.”

“They said nothing to anyone at first.”

At first, they were silent.

“Because they were afraid.”

This was holy fear and amazement.

But the other Gospels tell us they soon told the disciples.

Fear gave way to faith.

As noted, some of the oldest copies of Mark end here.

If so, it leaves every reader with a question.

Will you stay silent, or will you tell the news?

Cross References

Matthew 28:8

> The women left the tomb quickly. They were afraid, but they were also very happy. They ran to tell the followers what had happened.

Luke 24:9

> The women left the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to the others.

John 20:2

> So she ran to Simon Peter and the other follower whom Jesus loved and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!”

Spiritual Principle

The resurrection is overwhelming, but it must be told.

Key Truth

Fear at the tomb turned into the world's greatest message.

IX. FIRST TO MARY MAGDALENE

Mark 16:9 — Seven Demons Cast Out

“When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.”

“When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week.”

Sunday morning.

“He appeared first to Mary Magdalene.”

The first person to see the risen Jesus was a woman.

In that culture, women's testimony was often not trusted.

No one would invent a story like that.

This is a mark of truth.

“From whom He had cast out seven demons.”

Jesus had set her free.

Now He honored her as the first witness.

Cross References

John 20:16

> Jesus spoke her name: “Mary.” She turned to Him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (that is, “Teacher”).

Luke 8:2

> Some women were also with Him, including Mary Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out.

John 20:18

> Mary Magdalene went and told the followers, “I have seen the Lord!”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus honors those whom others might overlook.

Key Truth

The woman once held by seven demons was the first to see the risen Lord.

X. MOURNING AND WEEPING

Mark 16:10 — She Told Them

“She went and told those who had been with Him, who were mourning and weeping.”

“She went and told those who had been with Him.”

Mary became a messenger.

“Who were mourning and weeping.”

The disciples were grieving.

They thought it was over.

They did not yet know their tears were about to turn to joy.

Cross References

John 20:18

> She told them, “I have seen the Lord!” and she told them what He had said.

Luke 24:10

> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women who told the apostles.

Matthew 28:8

> The women ran to tell His followers.

Spiritual Principle

Good news is meant to be shared with those who are grieving.

Key Truth

Mary brought resurrection news into a room full of tears.

XI. THEY DID NOT BELIEVE

Mark 16:11 — Unbelief

“But when they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it.”

“They heard that Jesus was alive.”

The best news ever.

“And that she had seen Him.”

An eyewitness.

“They did not believe it.”

The disciples were not easily fooled.

They doubted.

This shows the resurrection was not something they invented.

They had to be convinced.

Cross References

Luke 24:11

> But the apostles thought the women's story was foolish talk, and they would not believe it.

John 20:25

> Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, I will not believe.”

Luke 24:24

> Some of our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

The disciples' doubts make their later faith even more convincing.

Key Truth

The first witnesses to the resurrection were doubters who became believers.

XII. IN A DIFFERENT FORM

Mark 16:12 — Two Walking in the Country

“Later, Jesus appeared in a different form to two of His followers as they were walking in the country.”

“Jesus appeared in a different form.”

His resurrection body was real.

But they did not recognize Him at first.

“To two of His followers as they were walking in the country.”

Luke tells this story in detail.

Two followers walking to Emmaus.

Jesus walked with them and explained the Scriptures.

They recognized Him when He broke bread.

Cross References

Luke 24:13

> That same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a town called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:16

> But something kept their eyes from knowing who He was.

Luke 24:31

> Suddenly their eyes were opened and they knew it was Jesus. Then He vanished from in front of them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus walks with His people even when they do not recognize Him.

Key Truth

The risen Lord meets people on ordinary roads.

XIII. STILL THEY DID NOT BELIEVE

Mark 16:13 — Reported to the Others

“They returned and reported it to the others, but they still did not believe them.”

The two hurried back to Jerusalem.

They told the others.

But the disciples still struggled to believe.

Luke tells us that by the time they arrived, some had begun to believe because Jesus had appeared to Peter.

Faith was growing slowly, one witness at a time.

Cross References

Luke 24:33

> They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven and others gathered together.

Luke 24:35

> Then the two told what had happened on the road and how they recognized Jesus when He broke the bread.

Luke 24:41

> They were filled with joy and amazement and still could not believe it.

Spiritual Principle

God is patient with slow and struggling faith.

Key Truth

Faith in the resurrection grew one witness at a time.

XIV. HE APPEARED TO THE ELEVEN

Mark 16:14 — Rebuked for Unbelief

“Finally, Jesus appeared to the eleven as they were eating. He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen.”

“Finally, Jesus appeared to the eleven.”

Judas was gone.

Eleven remained.

“As they were eating.”

He came to them in an ordinary moment.

“He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart.”

Jesus corrected them.

They should have believed the witnesses.

But His rebuke was followed by a commission.

He did not give up on them.

Cross References

Luke 24:36

> While they were still talking, Jesus was suddenly standing in the middle of them. He said, “Peace to you.”

John 20:19

> That Sunday evening the followers had locked themselves in a room. Jesus came, stood in the middle of them, and said, “Peace to you!”

John 20:26

> A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus corrects His followers, but He does not abandon them.

Key Truth

The same men Jesus rebuked, He then sent out to change the world.

XV. GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Mark 16:15 — Preach the Good News

“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone.””

“Go.”

The church is a sending people.

“Into all the world.”

Not just Israel.

Every nation.

“And preach the good news.”

The gospel.

The message that Jesus died and rose again.

“To everyone.”

No one is left out.

This is called the **Great Commission**.

It is the task of every believer.

Cross References

Matthew 28:19

> So go out to every nation and make followers for Me. Baptize them into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:47

> In His name, the message that people should turn from sin and be forgiven must go out to every nation, beginning in Jerusalem.

Acts 1:8

> When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, He will fill you with power. Then you will tell people about Me, starting in Jerusalem, then through Judea and Samaria, and all the way to the farthest places on earth.

Spiritual Principle

Every believer is called to share the good news with the world.

Application

Who in your world needs to hear the good news?

XVI. WHOEVER BELIEVES

Mark 16:16 — Saved or Condemned

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

“Whoever believes.”

Faith in Jesus is the heart of salvation.

“And is baptized.”

In the New Testament, believers were baptized as a public sign of their faith and new life in Christ.

“Will be saved.”

Rescued from sin and judgment.

“But whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Notice that the condemnation is for not believing.

It does not say “not baptized.”

Christians and churches understand the role of baptism in different ways.

Some see baptism as the moment God applies salvation to a believer.

Others see it as an outward sign of salvation already received by faith.

All agree that Jesus commands baptism and that saving faith in Him is essential.

Cross References

John 3:16

> God's love for the world was so great that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who trusts in Him will not perish. Instead, that person will live forever with God.

John 3:18

> No one who trusts in the Son is condemned. But anyone who refuses to trust Him stands condemned already, because he has not put his faith in God's one and only Son.

Acts 2:38

> Peter answered, “Every one of you must change your hearts and turn from sin, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so your sins will be forgiven. Then God will give you the Holy Spirit as a gift.”

Spiritual Principle

Salvation comes through faith in Jesus, expressed in obedience to Him.

Key Truth

Unbelief, not lack of opportunity, is what condemns.

XVII. SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY

Mark 16:17 — Demons Driven Out, New Tongues

“These signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons, they will speak in new tongues,”

“These signs will accompany those who believe.”

God would confirm the message with signs.

“In My name they will drive out demons.”

The book of Acts records this happening.

“They will speak in new tongues.”

This happened at Pentecost and later.

The power comes from Jesus' name, not from the believer.

Christians hold different views about whether these signs continue today in the same way as in the early church.

But all agree that God still works powerfully through His people.

Cross References

Acts 2:4

> The Holy Spirit filled every one of them, and they began speaking in languages they had never learned, as the Spirit made them able.

Acts 10:46

> They heard them speaking in other languages and praising God.

Acts 16:18

> Paul turned and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” And it left her at that moment.

Spiritual Principle

God confirms His message through His power at work in His people.

Key Truth

The power is in Jesus' name.

XVIII. SNAKES, POISON, AND HEALING

Mark 16:18 — They Will Recover

“they will pick up snakes with their hands, and if they drink deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will place their hands on the sick, and they will recover.””

“They will pick up snakes with their hands.”

In Acts, Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake by accident and was not harmed.

“And if they drink deadly poison, it will not harm them.”

These are promises of God's protection for His messengers as they carry the gospel.

They are not commands to test God.

Jesus Himself refused to test God by throwing Himself from the temple.

No believer should handle snakes or drink poison to prove their faith.

“They will place their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

God still heals in answer to prayer.

Believers should pray for the sick and also use the good gifts of medicine.

Cross References

Acts 28:5

> Paul shook the snake off into the fire and was not hurt.

Luke 10:19

> Listen, I have given you authority to step on snakes and scorpions and to defeat every power the enemy has. Nothing will be able to harm you.

James 5:15

> When people pray with faith, the sick person will be made well, and the Lord will lift him up. And any sins he has done will be forgiven.

Spiritual Principle

God protects and empowers His messengers, but we must never test Him.

Spiritual Warning

These are promises of protection, not invitations to deliberately put ourselves in danger.

XIX. TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN

Mark 16:19 — At the Right Hand of God

“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”

“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them.”

This is the only time Mark calls Him **“the Lord Jesus.”**

A fitting title at the end.

“He was taken up into heaven.”

This is called the **Ascension**.

Luke tells us it happened forty days after the resurrection.

“And sat down at the right hand of God.”

Exactly as Psalm 110 said.

Exactly as Jesus told the high priest.

The rejected King now reigns.

His work of salvation is finished.

He rules and prays for His people.

Cross References

Luke 24:51

> As He was blessing them, He was parted from them and lifted up into heaven.

Acts 1:9

> When He had said these things, He was lifted up as they looked on, and a cloud covered Him so they could no longer see Him.

Psalm 110:1

> The Lord said to my Lord, “Take Your seat at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet like a footrest.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus reigns now at the right hand of God.

Key Truth

The One who was condemned now sits on the throne.

XX. THE LORD WORKED WITH THEM

Mark 16:20 — Preached Everywhere

“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them, confirming His word with miraculous signs. Amen.”

“Then the disciples went out.”

They obeyed.

The scattered, frightened disciples became bold messengers.

“And preached everywhere.”

The gospel spread across the world.

“And the Lord worked with them.”

Jesus was in heaven.

But He was still working on earth through His people.

“Confirming His word with miraculous signs.”

God backed up their message.

“Amen.”

So be it.

The Gospel of Mark ends not with an ending, but with a beginning.

The story continues through every believer who carries the good news.

Cross References

Acts 14:3

> Paul and Barnabas stayed there a long time and spoke bravely for the Lord. He showed that their message about His grace was true by giving them power to do signs and wonders.

Hebrews 2:4

> God backed up their message with signs, wonders, all kinds of miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, handed out just as He chose.

Romans 15:19

> Christ worked through me by the power of signs and miracles and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Principle

The risen Lord works with His people as they share the gospel.

Key Truth

Mark's Gospel ends, but the work of the gospel goes on through us.

XXI. SIX GREAT LESSONS FROM MARK 16

1. The Tomb Is Empty

“He has risen! He is not here.”

Principle:

Jesus has risen just as He promised, proving His victory over death.

2. Fear Turned to Faith

“Trembling and bewildered, the women ran from the tomb.”

Principle:

Those who trembled at first became witnesses of the greatest truth in history.

3. The Great Commission Is for All Believers

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone.”

Principle:

Every believer is called to take the gospel to the whole world.

4. Faith Brings Salvation

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”

Principle:

Saving faith in Christ, shown through obedience such as baptism, is the pathway to eternal life.

5. God Empowers His People

“The Lord worked with them, confirming His word.”

Principle:

God's power over evil and sickness confirms the message of Christ.

6. Jesus Reigns Forever

“He was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”

Principle:

He is seated at the right hand of God, interceding for His people.

XXII. THE EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Mark 16 gives us strong reasons to believe Jesus truly rose.

The Empty Tomb

“See the place where they laid Him.”

The tomb was empty, and anyone could check it.

The Women Witnesses

In that culture, no one inventing a story would choose women as the first witnesses.

Their testimony is a mark of honesty.

The Doubting Disciples

“They did not believe it.”

The disciples were not expecting a resurrection.

They had to be convinced.

The Many Appearances

Mary, the two on the road, the eleven, and later more than five hundred people.

The Changed Lives

Frightened, hiding men became bold preachers who would not stop, even when threatened with death.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The resurrection is not wishful thinking; it is history witnessed by people who first doubted it.

XXIII. “AND PETER”: GRACE FOR THOSE WHO FAIL

Peter had boasted, **“Even if all fall away, I will not.”**

Then he denied Jesus three times.

He wept bitterly.

He must have wondered whether Jesus would ever want him again.

Then came the message from the empty tomb.

“Go, tell His disciples and Peter.”

Jesus Remembered Him

Peter was named.

Jesus Wanted Him

Peter was invited to Galilee with the others.

Jesus Restored Him

John 21 shows Jesus asking Peter three times, “Do you love Me?”

Jesus Used Him

Peter preached at Pentecost, and thousands believed.

Key Truth

Your failure is not the end of your story when the risen Jesus calls your name.

XXIV. THE GREAT COMMISSION

The risen Jesus gave His followers their mission.

The Command

“Go.”

The Scope

“Into all the world.”

The Message

“Preach the good news.”

The Audience

“To everyone.”

The Response

“Whoever believes… will be saved.”

The Power

“The Lord worked with them.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus does not send His people alone; He works with them as they go.

XXV. LOOKING BACK OVER THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark 16 completes the story that began in Mark 1.

It Began with Good News

“The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.” (Mark 1:1)

Jesus Came to Serve

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Jesus Told Them He Would Rise

Three times He said He would be killed and rise again after three days.

Jesus Died as He Said

Mark 15 shows the cross.

Jesus Rose as He Said

“He has risen… just as He told you.”

The Good News Goes On

“The disciples went out and preached everywhere.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Gospel of Mark begins with good news and ends by sending that good news into all the world.

XXVI. WHAT MARK 16 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is Risen

“He has risen!”

He Keeps His Word

“Just as He told you.”

He Restores the Fallen

“And Peter.”

He Honors the Overlooked

“He appeared first to Mary Magdalene.”

He Is Patient with Doubters

“They still did not believe.”

He Sends His People

“Go into all the world.”

He Saves Those Who Believe

“Whoever believes… will be saved.”

He Reigns as Lord

“He… sat down at the right hand of God.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the risen Lord who keeps His word, restores the fallen, sends His people, and reigns forever.

XXVII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the women go to the tomb?

To anoint Jesus' body with spices. They expected to find Him dead.

Question 2

What were the women worried about on the way?

Who would roll the large stone away from the entrance.

Question 3

What did the young man in white tell them?

“He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”

Question 4

Why are the words “and Peter” important?

Peter had denied Jesus, but Jesus made sure he knew he was still wanted.

Question 5

Why were the women afraid?

The news was overwhelming and holy. Their fear soon turned to joyful witness.

Question 6

Who was the first person to see the risen Jesus?

Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.

Question 7

How did the disciples first respond to the news?

They did not believe it.

Question 8

Why does the disciples' doubt strengthen the case for the resurrection?

It shows they did not invent the story. They had to be convinced by seeing Jesus.

Question 9

What is the Great Commission?

Jesus' command to go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone.

Question 10

What does verse 16 teach about salvation?

Salvation comes through faith in Jesus, and believers are called to be baptized. Condemnation comes from unbelief.

Question 11

Should Christians handle snakes or drink poison to prove their faith?

No. These are promises of God's protection, not commands to test God. Jesus Himself refused to test God.

Question 12

What should Mark 16 change about the way Christians live today?

Mark 16 should cause believers to live:

- Rejoicing that Jesus is alive.
- Trusting that God has already moved the stones they fear.
- Believing that failure is not the end.
- Sharing the good news with everyone.
- Obeying Jesus in faith and baptism.
- Trusting God's power to work through them.
- Being patient with those who struggle to believe.
- Living under the reign of the risen King.

XXVIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Mark 16 asks several important questions.

Do I Believe Jesus Is Alive?

Not just as history, but as my living Lord?

What Stone Am I Worried About?

Have I trusted God with it?

Do I Believe Jesus Still Wants Me?

Even after I have failed Him, like Peter?

Am I Silent or Sharing?

Am I telling others the good news?

Am I Slow to Believe?

Have I hardened my heart like the eleven?

Have I Obeyed Jesus?

Have I trusted Him and followed Him in baptism?

Who Needs to Hear?

Who in my world has not heard the good news?

Do I Live Under His Reign?

Is Jesus truly Lord of my life?

XXIX. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“He Is Not Here”

The women came to the tomb with spices.

They came to anoint the dead.

They came with grief.

They came worried about a stone.

But the stone was already moved.

And the tomb was already empty.

“He is not here.”

These may be the most hopeful words ever spoken in a graveyard.

Jesus is not among the dead.

He is not held by the grave.

He is not a memory to be honored.

He is a living Lord to be followed.

This creates a powerful principle.

Do not look for the living among the dead.

Do not live as if Jesus were still in the tomb.

Principle:

Because Jesus is not in the tomb, death does not have the last word for anyone who trusts Him.

XXX. FINAL APPLICATION

Mark Chapter 16 brings us to the empty tomb.

Women come with spices.

The stone is rolled away.

A young man in white announces, “He has risen!”

Peter is named.

The women tremble.

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.

He walks with two on the road.

He appears to the eleven.

He sends them into all the world.

He is taken up into heaven.

And the disciples go out and preach everywhere.

Mark 16 therefore reminds us:

Never live as if Jesus were still dead.

Never think your failure has disqualified you.

Never keep the good news to yourself.

Never test God to prove your faith.

Never forget that Jesus reigns.

The church does not need people who only visit the empty tomb.

It needs:

People who believe He is alive.

People who have been restored like Peter.

People who go into all the world.

And people who live under the reign of the risen King.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that the tomb is empty.

Tell people that failure can be forgiven.

Tell people that whoever believes will be saved.

Tell people that Jesus reigns.

And as you go:

Believe.

Obey.

Go.

Trust the Lord to work with you.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus has risen from the dead.

Thank You that the tomb is empty and death has been defeated.

Thank You that You roll away stones we cannot move.

Thank You for the words “and Peter,” and for grace that calls us back after we fail.

Thank You for honoring Mary Magdalene as the first witness.

Thank You for being patient with doubting hearts.

Thank You for sending us into all the world with the good news.

Thank You that Jesus sits at Your right hand and prays for us.

Forgive us when we have lived as if Jesus were still in the tomb.

Forgive us when we have stayed silent out of fear.

Forgive us when our hearts have been slow to believe.

Forgive us when we have kept the good news to ourselves.

Help us believe with all our hearts.

Help us obey Jesus in all things.

Send us into our world with the good news.

Work with us, Lord, as You worked with the first disciples.

And help us live every day under the reign of the risen King.

“He has risen! He is not here.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“He said to them, “Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”” — Mark 16:6

Central Truth

Jesus Christ, who was crucified, has risen from the dead, appeared to His followers, sent them into all the world with the good news, and now reigns at the right hand of God, working with His people as they proclaim Him.

Mark 16 in One Sentence

Women find the tomb empty and hear that Jesus has risen, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene, to two followers, and to the eleven, sends them into all the world with the good

news, and is taken up to the right hand of God, while His disciples go out preaching everywhere and the Lord works with them.