

Christ has risen!

How will it affect you ?

Mark 16: 1-8

Empty churches ... yes

But ... don't forget the empty tomb!



Background info (homework) for home-bound “eager and bored” people

- Construct a bio profile of author John Mark:
Col. 4:10; Acts 12:12; Mk 14: 51-52; Acts 12:25 & 13:5; Acts 13:13; Acts 15: 36-41; Philemon 24; 2 Tim. 4:11; 1 Pt. 5: 13

One young man following behind was clothed only in a long linen shirt. When the mob tried to grab him, he slipped out of his shirt and ran away naked. (Mk 14: 51-52; NLT)

Your sister church here in Babylon [code name for Rome] sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. (1 Pt. 5: 13; NLT)

Date & Setting

- First of the 4 Gospels to be composed
- Date uncertain; probable range: AD 55-65
- Written from Rome to the church in Rome
- Audience knew little about Old Testament - Aramaic words were interpreted; Latin terms used instead of Greek equivalents
- Original audience were believers facing Nero's persecution?

... [Jesus] was tempted by Satan for forty days. He was out among the wild animals, and angels took care of him. (Mark 1: 13; NLT)

Purpose of Mark's gospel

- To present the gospel to his audience
This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. (Mk 1: 1; NLT)
- To present Peter's account of the life and sayings of Jesus
- Reveals the shortcomings of Jesus' disciples, especially Peter
- Shortest gospel with the most emotions
- “immediately” occurs ~41X (total of 79X in NT)

Virtual “Town Hall” Meeting - Mar. 24th



Virtual “Town Hall” Meeting - Mar. 24th

- *Trump Wants U.S. ‘Opened Up’ by Easter, Despite Health Officials’ Warnings* (NY Times)
- “You can’t just come in and say let’s close up the United States of America,” Trump said, insisting again that he did not view the coronavirus as any more dangerous than the flu.
- “I give it two weeks, ... We will assess at that time and give it more time if we need a little more time. We have to open this country up.”

Not a popular Easter Scriptural text

■ Mark 16: 1-8

Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus' body. ² Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ On the way they were asking each other, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside.

5 When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, 6 but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body. 7 Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”

8 The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.[c]

Why is Mark 16: 1-8 not a popular text?

The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened.[c]

[c] The most reliable early manuscripts of the Gospel of Mark end at verse 8. Other manuscripts include various endings to the Gospel. A few include both the “shorter ending” and the “longer ending.” The majority of manuscripts include the “longer ending” immediately after verse 8. – NLT footnote

In the NIV (2010), Mark 16: 9-20 is treated the same way as John 7: 53 to 8: 11

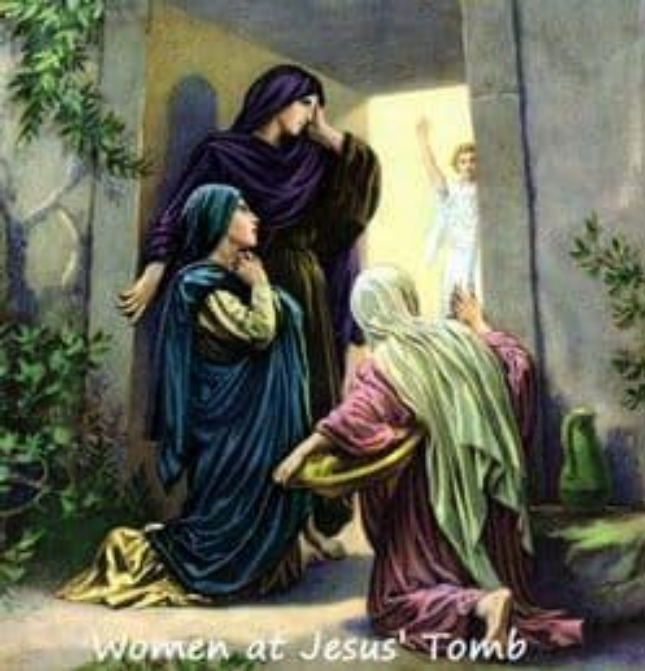
[The earliest manuscripts and some other ancient witnesses do not have verses 9–20.]

[The earliest manuscripts and many other ancient witnesses do not have John 7:53—8:11. ...]

Why not a popular Easter text ?

The women fled from the tomb, trembling and bewildered, and they said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened. (Mk. 16:8; NLT)

- First witnesses of Jesus' resurrection fled from the tomb trembling & bewildered
- They said nothing to anyone because they were too frightened



Women at Jesus' Tomb



What we expected is not what's here ! Wouldn't we like to change Mark's ending ?

■ NLT' footnote

[The most ancient manuscripts of Mark conclude with verse 16:8. Later manuscripts add one or both of the following endings.]

[Shorter Ending of Mark]

Then they briefly reported all this to Peter and his companions. Afterward Jesus himself sent them out from east to west with the sacred and unfailing message of salvation that gives eternal life. Amen.

What we expected is not what's here !

How would we like to change Mark's ending ?

- [*Longer Ending of Mark*] vv. 9-16
- vv. 9 - 11 - Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20: 10-18)
- vv. 12-13 - Jesus appears to two disciples travelling from Jerusalem to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)
- v. 14 - Jesus appears to disciples, including Thomas (John 20: 24-31)
- vv. 15-18 - Jesus gives the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20)
- vv. 19-20 - Jesus ascends into heaven (Luke 24: 50-53)

But that's not what actually happened !

That's not how Mark chose to end his gospel

- Whenever humans see “God”, initial reaction always fear and trembling – for how can sinful man survive encounter with holy God?
- Mark not only shows failure of disciples (all guys), also shows failure of lady disciples
- Everyone has “feet of clay”*
- * expression commonly used to refer to a weakness or character flaw, especially in people of prominence – wikipedia
- * a weakness or hidden flaw in the character of a greatly admired or respected person – dictionary.com

Mark invites us to be real / authentic

- Since initial reaction to disappearance of dead person from the tomb fear and confusion, why hide it?
- How did Mark come to know about this initial reaction of the 3 Mary's ?
- Did they really remain silent indefinitely?

Mark invites us to continue to story of the resurrection, clay feet and all ...

- Don't judge others by their initial response(s); the camera is still rolling
- What counts is what happens after the initial response(s)
- **Jesus' tomb is empty – He is our risen Lord and Savior**
- Don't judge yourself by your initial response(s)
- What counts is the next chapter after this; God is more interested in what comes next ... after initial response(s)

A few important questions

- Am I authentic and real? Or putting on a show?
- Am I attempting to change my current situation?
- This particular point of your life - “snap shot” or video-recording?
- Whether happy or unhappy, what counts is the next chapter
- Risen Lord & Savior wants to be involved right now, to help and guide you

Final questions

- Will you invite risen Christ to enter your life as Lord and Savior, to transform your life from this moment onward?
- How will you live a more authentic life during this covid-19 pandemic? Don't leave Jesus Christ out.
- What will the next chapters of your life look like, after this pandemic is over?

