

The Story Continues

In the closing chapter of Mark, we follow Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome as they discover the empty tomb. The scene is one of utter shock and bewilderment, as the women learn of Jesus' triumph over death. Yet soon after this, the gospel of Mark abruptly ends. It feels like the story is unresolved. Mark leaves us wanting to know more, curious about what happened next. But Mark's job is done. He has achieved his goal of revealing the Son of God to us and witnessing about what the Messiah came to do. Yet the story is not over. Discover what Mark is calling us to do now that we recognize Jesus Christ for who he really is and understand what he came to do.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- Reflect on a few stories or movies you think have great endings. What makes them great?
- What is your favorite story about Jesus' resurrection or his post-resurrection appearances? What makes it your favorite?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [The Story Continues](#)

READ [Mark 16:1-8](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Read [Matthew 28:1-15](#), [Luke 24:1-12](#), or [John 20:1-18](#); then reread [Mark 16:1-8](#) and compare it with your selected passage. Which details are the same, which are different? What style differences do you notice?
- While reflecting on [Mark 16:8](#) in segment 2, host Dave Bast identifies a question he believes Mark wants us to wrestle with: "What are we going to do about it?" Ponder and reflect on the additional questions Dave posed to help you consider that question: "Are you silent?... Do you get it? Can you see yourself there? Are you blown away by the fact that the tomb is empty? That Jesus' body isn't there? That he is risen from the dead. Do you get the earth-shattering significance of that? You know, are you willing to let that sort of blow your life up; and then, what are you going to do about it?" Journal or discuss how you felt while pondering your response to these questions.
- What do you think about host Scott Hoezee's suggestion, in segment 3, that the angel's instruction to "Go to Galilee" is both literal and symbolic? Test the theory by rereading [Mark 1:1-15](#) (or more if you desire and have time!). How is your reading of the passage this time different than before you studied Mark's complete Gospel?
- How do you think the Gospel of Mark's sudden and shocking ending contributes to the author's goal of showing us who Jesus is and what he came to do?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Matthew 28:1-15](#), [Luke 24:1-12](#), [John 20:1-18](#), [Mark 1](#), [John 21:15-19](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on Scott Hoezee's closing thoughts:

"You are still part of a story that is only now continuing to unfold, new every generation. So, go out; live the gospel; tell the gospel; take up your cross. Only after you have been to the cross do you understand why Jesus had to go there. So when Jesus, in Mark 8, at the center point of the gospel...Jesus says you have to take up your cross. I have to go to the cross; and Peter said: No; no, no, no, no. That won't work. Well, now we know it did work; so, we keep reading the gospel through the lens of the cross, through the lens of sacrifice, and we understand how the world gets saved; not through power from the top down, but through humility and sacrifice from the bottom up."

What does it mean to you that you are still a part of God's continuing story? What do you think it means for you to take up your cross? What does that look like for you? Where can you find courage and encouragement at the cross? Turn your responses into a prayer to close your time of reflection.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-story-continues>

Printed on November 7, 2024