

THE STORY CONTINUES

Mark 16:1-8

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- 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?

In most modern Bibles, the Gospel of Mark has two endings. After the first eight verses of chapter 16, publishers use a variety of design choices to set apart verses nine to twenty. Join Groundwork to find out why and study the book's first conclusion in depth. We will revisit the shock and amazement of Christ's resurrection and consider how Mark invites us to evaluate our own faith and continue the story by sharing with others our own experience with the risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

Listen: [*The Story Continues*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- 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 contribute to the author's goal of showing us who Jesus is and what he came to do?

Related Passages

- **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>

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