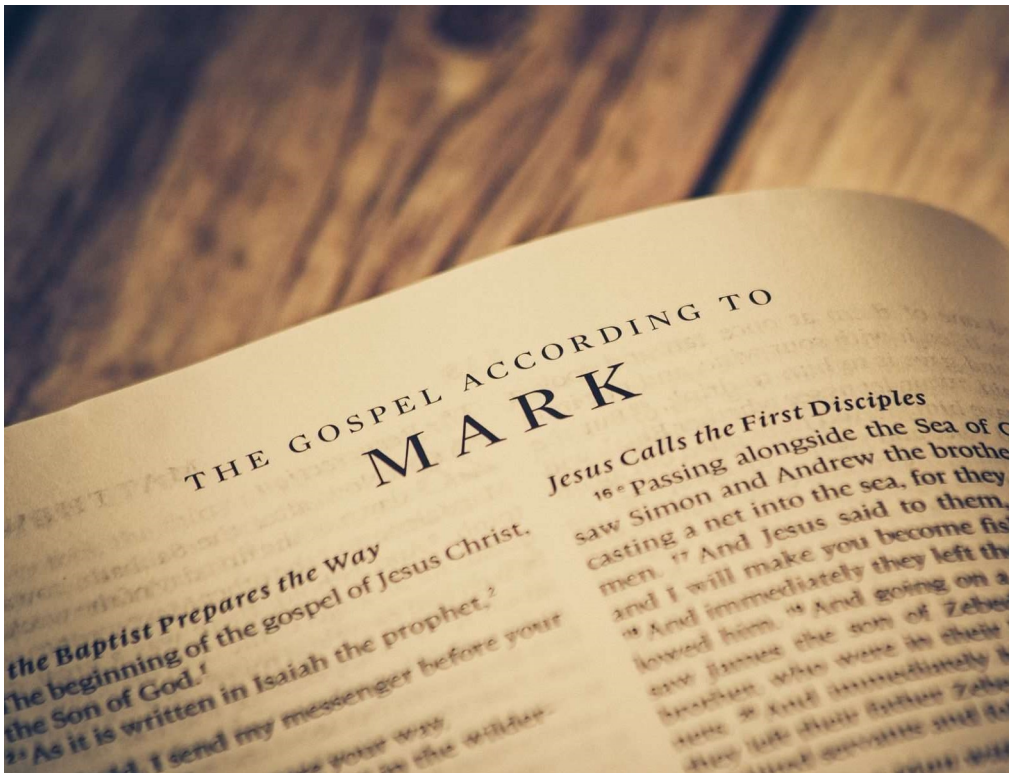


# Let's Worship God

23rd-28th December 2019

Mark



# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples  
16: Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he  
called to him Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon  
and said to them, "Follow me into the sea, for they were fishers."

## Monday - Mark 15:33-41 - Darkness and a Torn Curtain

Jesus is betrayed, slandered, beaten, humiliated, insulted, and nailed to a wooden cross. As He hangs on that cross in the middle of the day, surrounded by people mocking Him, darkness falls over the land for three hours. The Light of the World is being destroyed, and the darkness is a sign of God's curse come upon Jesus.

At the end of the darkness Jesus cries out in agony. His cry of God forsaking Him comes from Psalm 22 verse 1. This is the worst suffering that ever Jesus endures. It is a suffering that we can't even begin to understand. Jesus' close relationship with the Father, a relationship that has existed from all eternity, is broken. For the sake of His people, the wrath of God is being poured out on their substitute. Jesus is suffering an eternity of hell for each of His people on that cross. But Psalm 22 is a psalm that ends in triumph, and Jesus' cry from that psalm is a cry of faith and victory.

As Jesus dies, the heavy curtain of the Temple that divides the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place tears from top to bottom. Only God can tear this curtain from the top, allowing men to see the holiest place of all, previously forbidden to any but the high priest once a year. Jesus Christ has broken down the barrier between a holy God and sinful men. Because of what Jesus has done, men can come to the presence of God, without a priest, in prayer.

### Questions

1. Why did the land get dark for three hours?
2. Had God forsaken Jesus and why?
3. How do we come into God's presence?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that our Lord has done for us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 114 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples  
18: Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he  
and Andrew the brother of Simon  
to the sea, for they were fish

## Tuesday - Mark 15:42-47 - The Burial

The agony of the Garden of Gethsemane and the suffering of the cross is over. Now, in these verses, we have the quiet of burial. It is a Friday late afternoon, and Jesus has died. The Jewish Sabbath begins at sunset, and it is against God's law for a body to be left hanging on a tree overnight (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). Joseph of Arimathea is a secret believer in Christ. Even though he is part of the Sanhedrin, the very group that has organised the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus, he comes forward and associates himself with Christ. It is no benefit to him to honour a fallen leader, but his love for Jesus is so strong he is willing to serve Him even when dead. This shows us that there are true Christians of whom we know nothing and in places where we don't expect to see them.

Joseph comes to Pilate and asks for the body of Jesus. Pilate is surprised that Jesus has died so quickly, but when the centurion confirms this, he has no problem handing Jesus' body over to a wealthy and influential Jew. Joseph gives Jesus a very quick and temporary burial as he is trying to get it done before sunset. But it is also the kind of burial a royal and wealthy king would have. The women who have been watching Jesus from a distance find out where He is buried, so they can come back on Sunday morning after the Sabbath to properly embalm Him.

### Questions

1. Why did Jesus have to be buried so quickly?
2. Why is it surprising that Joseph would ask Pilate for Jesus' body?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus has followers everywhere.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 115 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Jesus Calls the First Disciples  
16<sup>a</sup> Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he  
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id to them, "Follow

## Wednesday - Mark 16:1-8 - Joy Comes in the Morning

Jesus has been in the tomb three days. The sabbath of rest is over; the sabbath where the chief priests, their hands full of the blood of Christ, carry out all the ceremonies of worship to God; the sabbath where it seems Satan has won. But it is the first day of a new week and the first day of a new world. The women are coming to anoint Jesus, and they are worrying about how they are going to move the stone. The resurrection, though, has made all their worries unnecessary. What they could never have done themselves, God has done for them. So often, as we try to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ, we worry about all the possible obstacles, and then we find that Jesus removes and helps us past them all.

The angel is there in the empty tomb with a message of mercy and joy for Jesus' friends. Jesus has risen. This resurrection is His discharge from prison; His receipt that the debt owed to God because of sin has been paid, and we are free. The women are to tell the disciples because Jesus still loves and cares for them despite what they have done. They must also tell Peter specifically as a sign that he is still part of the group - the good news is for him as well. The women still don't understand; they are afraid, confused, and happy, but their fears keep them from telling any but the disciples. Often our fears and worries can keep us from serving Christ.

### Questions

1. Why were the women going to the tomb, and what were they worried about?
2. Why might Peter have been mentioned specifically in the angel's message?

### Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Jesus rose from the dead.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 116 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
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**Thursday - Mark 16:9-14 - 'They Did Not Believe It.'**

Mary Magdalene has been forgiven much (Jesus healed her of seven demons), she has loved much, and she is honoured to be the first to see the Lord Jesus Christ after the resurrection. She is last at the cross and first at the grave, and the Lord values her love and faithfulness. Those who honour Christ, He will honour. No matter how great or many your sins have been, if you repent and believe the Gospel, you are at peace with God as Mary Magdalene is.

Those who have seen Jesus can't keep quiet about it. They must tell the disciples who are grieving for the death of their Lord. This resurrection is the seal of the great work that Jesus came on earth to do. It is proof that the ransom He paid for sinners is accepted and victory is won. The greatest comfort to Christians today is the same as it is for the disciples then - our Lord has risen from the grave and won victory over sin on our behalf.

But the other disciples don't believe those who have seen Jesus. Their unbelief and refusal to admit the resurrection until they see Jesus Himself is like all unbelievers who refuse to admit the truth until the Holy Spirit changes their hearts, takes away their blindness, and through the Bible shows them what Jesus has done. The unbelief of the disciples also reminds us that even among believers there can be times of doubt and unbelief, so we should watch and pray against it.

**Questions**

1. Who was the first to see Jesus?
2. Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?

**Prayer Points**

1. Give thanks that Jesus rose from the dead.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

**Memory Verse**

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 117 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**





THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
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16: Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee,  
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... to them. "Fol-

## Friday - Mark 16:15-18 - A Job to Do

Jesus now gives His followers a job to do. They are to preach the gospel to all the world - not just Jews. They are to tell everyone of the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and what that means. Wherever they go, they are to take the gospel; if they can't go to a certain area, they are to send others there. They are to make it the whole business of their lives to send the gospel everywhere.

They are to set before men and women a choice of life or death. If they believe in Jesus, that He came to earth, that He died on the cross, and rose from the dead, if they repent of their sins, ask for His forgiveness, and turn their lives over to Him, they will be saved from sin and eternal death. Baptism will be the sign and seal that they are part of God's family. But if they don't believe, if they continue in their sins, rejecting and hating God, they will die an eternal death in hell. This is the choice that all of Jesus' followers are responsible to set before men and women.

God gives the early church the ability to do many signs and miracles. These will be proof that their authority and the things they say come from God. Now we have the complete Word of God that we use, instead of signs and miracles, to prove whether or not what someone is saying comes from God.

### Questions

1. Who are we to tell about the Gospel?
2. What are the two choices people have?
3. How do we know if what somebody says is what God says?

### Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would speak to our neighbours about Jesus.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### Memory Verse

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 118 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**



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## **Saturday - Mark 16:19-20 - Christ our King**

Jesus returns to the glory He had before in heaven. He is welcomed there as the victorious King, and He rules at the right hand of God. He does not sleep or sit there doing nothing, but He controls every detail of the world. He defends those who trust in Him before God the Father and applies His perfect life to them. He is always ready to help, comfort, and encourage His people. No matter how much we stumble and are weak, Jesus is all powerful and in control of all things. Christians can always be encouraged by realising that Jesus loves them, takes care of them, and they are going to be with Him.

The Church moves forward with her Lord in heaven. The followers of Christ work diligently, telling the Gospel everywhere. They are met with lots of persecution, trouble, danger, and hardship, but God works with them to make their labour successful. He changes hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Word is never preached in vain. Believers are gathered out of the world; churches are founded in country after country. Christianity grows from a little seed into a great tree. Despite every obstacle, God's work goes on. Christians can take great comfort from this realising that God is still working with them to make what they do successful. No one will ever find that the work they have done for Christ has been useless.

### **Questions**

1. Where did Jesus go?
2. Who changes people's hearts?
3. Why didn't persecution stop the church?

### **Prayer Points**

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

### **Memory Verse**

"But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Mark 10:31

**Praise: Psalm 119:Part 1 - See [www.rpglobalalliance.org](http://www.rpglobalalliance.org) for Psalm tune helps.**

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that  
Ezra read from  
the book of the Law  
day after day  
and that  
the people of God  
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance  
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