



CHAPTER 16

Time to Believe

Mark 16 is the happy, triumphant ending that proves God's SOVEREIGNTY. LOVE & POWER (1 Peter 1:3-4, 1 Cor 15:54-55, Col 1:20-21)

Fantastic to find the tomb EMPTY, but also crucial that WITNESSES should see with their own eyes that Jesus was RISEN.

→ *Is the resurrection scene the most important passage in the whole Bible? Why is the resurrection the pivotal moment in human history?*

MARK 16:15-20

v15: *As you GO into all the world, preach OPENLY the WONDERFUL news of the gospel to the ENTIRE human race.*

v16: BELIEVE in your heart, RECEIVE the free gift of grace and DECLARE the lordship of Christ with your mouth (Rom 19:9-10)

v17-18: Four MIRACLE SIGNS

1. Drive out DEMONS in my name
2. Speak in TONGUES
3. Be supernaturally PROTECTED
4. Lay hands on the sick and HEAL them

→ *Which of those 4 have you ever seen in action? Aer they or have they been in operation in your life? What difference would it make to your Christian witness if they were more in evidence?*

THE EXPECTATION

- * The GOSPELS are full of miracles, signs and wonders.
- * The Book of ACTS is also full of the miraculous.
- * CHURCH HISTORY is also full of remarkable divine interventions.

THE BIG QUESTION: Do we EXPECT our Christianity to be NATURAL or SUPERNATURAL? Are we leaning on our BEST EFFORTS or His SOVEREIGN POWER?

→ *What do you EXPECT? If someone from the outside were to critique your Christian experience, would they conclude that it was largely natural or supernatural? If you're honest, do you tend to resort to your own effort or seek His power and intervention in your Christian life?*

THE AMAZING PROMISES: John 14:12-14, Mark 11:23-24, Mark 16:17-18

- * Did Jesus REALLY SAY those things? Did He REALLY MEAN it? And, if so, what are we intending to do about it?

→ *How do you respond to those promises? Are they for you? If Jesus really meant all those things, how should that impact / influence / inform our lives / prayers / witness?*

FULL GOSPEL

- * 'Sozo' means saved and forgiven, but also HEALED, DELIVERED, SANCTIFIED, WHOLE & FREE (Rom 10:13, Luke 8:48, Phil 2:12-13).

→ *How is your salvation being 'worked out?' Which aspects of 'sozo' do you need? How can we pray for you?*

- * When we step out in the unknown with the gospel, the WHOLE WEIGHT OF HEAVEN is behind us.

→ *"There are more miracles in the mission field than the church hall." Do you agree? Should this be the case? How does Mark 16:17-20 relate to that?*

- * Jesus left us a PATTERN to follow (Luke 4:18-19), a MANDATE to continue (Matthew 10:7-8) and PROMISES to stand on (Mark 16:17).

- * We also have the TESTIMONY of the book of Acts (Acts 3:1-10, 5:12-16, 19:11-12) and the TEACHING of Paul (1 Cor 2:4-5, 1 Thess 1:5).

→ *Are you personally or are we as a church following that pattern, serving that mandate and standing on those promises? What might it look like if we really did?*

v20: Key words: WORKED WITH ... VALIDATED ... ACCOMPANIED.

- * We're BELIEVERS which means we're supposed to BELIEVE and these signs FOLLOW those who BELIEVE (Psalm 23:6).

→ *What's following you? What trail are you leaving in your wake? Does it look like Mark 16:17-20 or Psalm 23:6 or something altogether different? Perhaps you have had a wake-up call?*

OUR CHALLENGE

- * It's easy for our EXPECTATION to WANE.
- * FAITH = Unrelenting trust and confidence in the WORD of God, whatever our SENSES tell us and however our negative EXPERIENCES try to influence us.
- * THE TEMPTATION: To get SUCKERED into thinking that the whole thing DEPENDS ALMOST ENTIRELY ON US.
- * Don't LIMIT yourself to what is NATURALLY POSSIBLE ... Jesus never did!
- * "If it's in the BIBLE, it should be in the CHURCH!"

→ *Has your expectation waned, drifted or faded? If so, from where to where? Why? How might it be restored?*

→ *Are you more strongly governed in this area by your past experience, some of which might have been negative or disappointing, or by the powerful promises of God's Word and the riveting example of Jesus? Which should it be? How can the balance be shifted?*

→ *What's stopping you or holding you back? Have you fallen into the temptation to think that it all relies on you? Why don't we respond to God's invitation to trust Him entirely?*

→ *"If it's in the Bible, it should be in the church?" Discuss! What's in the Bible that you haven't found yet in the church? Similarly, what's in the church that you haven't found yet in the Bible?!*