

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide

SB 04.04.2021

BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED – MARK 16:1-8

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Our Theme is that Jesus Christ died on the Cross 2,000 years ago in your place, for your sins. It is by His stripes the Bible says We Are Healed! The Cross is the Love of God and the Glory of God! The Good News is Jesus died on the Cross but then Rose on the 3rd Day! The Cross is important, but without the Resurrection it means nothing, because a dead Savior cannot save anybody! HE IS RISEN! I do not know where you're at spiritually today. Some of you are doing Great! Some are overwhelmed with deep sadness, this Easter a Marker of someone who was here last year but they are gone now. I want to let God has something special for you. You may be in Bad shape spiritually or you may be outwardly good, you talk a good talk and seem together but in reality there is a breakdown in your life. Easter reminds us that Jesus has defeated death itself and we can have hope, no matter the circumstance! Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion:

1. What struck you or stood out to you from this week's sermon?
2. Can you imagine an experience like this? Can you fathom what it would feel like to have a loved one return from death?
3. Why do you think the resurrection is something all people naturally long for?

After the death of Jesus on the cross, His disciples were distraught. Hope was lost. The story wasn't supposed to end that way. The darkness that hung in the air had permeated the fledgling group of Christ-followers. But at dawn on Sunday morning, a few attentive women received a message and a command that would change everything. Seeing that the stone had been rolled away, the women learned that Jesus was no longer in the grave—He had risen. Not only had He risen, but He had already gone ahead of them, and they were to share the good news. This is the gospel message that was to go out to the ends of the earth. Death had been defeated. Christ had been raised. Indeed, there is no greater hope for a broken world.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 16:1-4

Once the Sabbath had passed, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome gathered spices and went early in the morning to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They wanted to anoint His body properly for burial. In the rush of Friday night, His body had not been attended to in the manner which was custom. Though bodies were not embalmed, they were often covered in spices to preserve them for as long as possible. The women may have been unaware that just a few nights before, another woman had anointed Jesus for burial when she lavishly poured an entire bottle of expensive nard on His head (14:3-9). Even still, they had cared for Jesus up to that point (15:41), and they would continue even after His death.

1. What stands out about the fact that the women didn't have a certain plan to move the stone? How was their journey an act of faith?

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

2. How might you exhibit faith in the midst of a very difficult circumstance?

This scene offers a picture of our own barriers to Christ. Before we know Christ as our Savior, there remains a barrier between us and God—one that we have no power to remove. In Christ, that stone is rolled away, but not of our doing. Even still, as believers, we often find ways to roll smaller stones in the way once again. Whether it be sinful tendencies or unhealthy habits, in our flesh, we find ways to distance ourselves. The hope of Easter, however, is that Christ has already removed the stone and given us full access. He continues to empower us through the Holy Spirit to keep the stones of sin and shame out of the way. Where Christ has removed the stench of death, let us not back into the grave once again—we have been called to life!

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 16:5-6

With the barrier removed, the women ventured through the tomb's entrance to carry out the anointing process. They expected to find Jesus' body still wrapped, lying where Joseph had laid him. Instead, they saw a young man, dressed in white, sitting where Jesus was supposed to be. Understandably caught off guard, the women were frightened.

1. What are some of the indicators that this was no ordinary man, but a supernatural messenger?

A few things about this scene had a supernatural undertone. As already stated, the very large stone had been moved out of the way. There was only one man inside the tomb, yet the stone would have been too large for a single person to move—probably even for all three women to move. Secondly, the women were frightened—a common response to encounters with angels. The messenger's first words support this pattern, as he told the women not to be afraid. Mark also noted the young man was wearing a white robe. The indication here is that this was not an ordinary white but a white that lit up the darkness of the tomb.

2. What is the significance of the messenger's words that Jesus was not there?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 16:7-8

The messenger's declaration didn't stop there. Jesus was alive—indeed, He had risen from the dead. But there was more. Because Jesus had risen, there was news to share. The angel gave the women a command and a word of comfort. He instructed them to go at once to tell the disciples and Peter what they had seen and what he had told them. And as if he knew the women would be overwhelmed at the prospect of carrying such a message, he gave them a word of comfort: Jesus had already gone ahead of them. These words were hopeful for the women in the tomb and for us today. He has gone ahead of you, and He will meet you, if only you will follow after Him. In these simple words, we as believers take heart knowing that Jesus has already walked the journey ahead of us and He has made a way.

1. Why do you think the angel included "and Peter" in his command to tell the disciples?
2. What hope does Peter's specific inclusion offer us?

It seems odd that the angel would specify Peter. After all, he was included in "the disciples." Yet, Mark made sure to include that detail in the messenger's words. In this detail, we find great encouragement as followers of Jesus. Just two chapters prior, Peter failed Jesus in a remarkable way. While Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, Peter and the others had fallen asleep after He had asked them to stay and pray with Him (Mark 14: 32-42). As Jesus agonized over the impending cross, His disciples fell asleep. Peter, too, had promised Jesus that He would never betray Him (14:29). And then, before Peter knew it, he had denied Jesus three times—just as Jesus had predicted. All of the disciples failed in Jesus' greatest hour of need, Peter especially. Here we see the grace of a Savior who sends His good news even to those who have failed Him.

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Have you struggled with doubt when it comes to your faith? Something happens to make you question. Some people think if they become a Christian they have to check their brain at the door. Not true. Isa 1:18 states "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. It is ok to have questions. Everyone struggles with doubt every now and then. "Doubt is not always a sign that a man is wrong, it may be a sign that man is thinking."

1. The women had no ability to move aside the greatest barrier keeping them from Jesus. What in your life is impeding your relationship with Jesus? Are there barriers keeping you from seeing and hearing Jesus?
2. In what areas do you find yourself looking for life in the midst of death? What habits, sin patterns, and unhealthy behaviors do you continue to foster, instead of submitting them to Jesus?
3. Where is Jesus leading you? Where is your Galilee? How is He calling you to follow daily in obedience on the path He has walked before you?

PRAYER - Pray and thank God that Jesus is alive and the stone has been rolled away. Ask Him to show where He is leading you and to give you the faith to follow Him obediently, despite your fears and past failures.

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jesus died for YOU personally. " Jer. 33:3