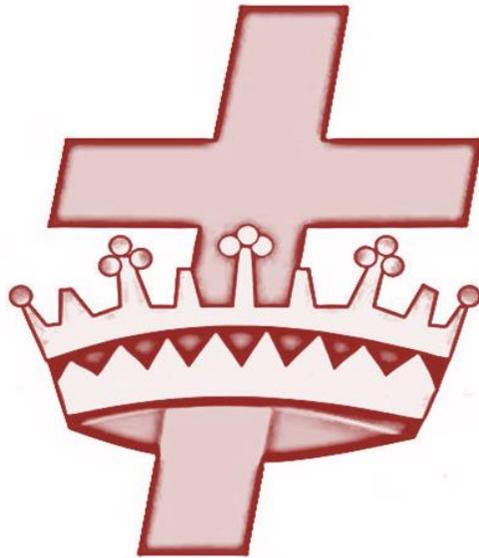


The Gospel of Mark:



JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!



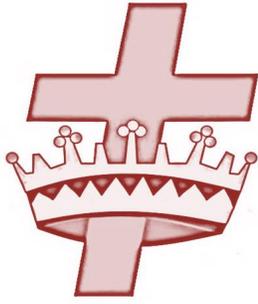
GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!
Study Guide for the Gospel of Mark
Gulf Shores Church of Christ (by Ray Reynolds)

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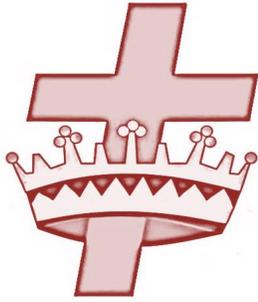
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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of adult Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Dr. Edgar Elliott, J. Vernon McGee, Gleason L. Archer, H. Leo Boles, Robert H. Gundry, B.W. Johnson, and other various sources.



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Study Guide for the Gospel of Mark

Gulf Shores Church of Christ (by Ray Reynolds)

INTRODUCTION

Author:

The author is very careful to not identify himself, but John Mark is universally accepted as writer of this gospel (**Acts 12:12, 25**). This gives us the impression that he may have been writing for someone else. In fact, it is the unanimous testimony of early church fathers that Mark was the author. John was his Jewish name, and Marcus (Mark) was his Roman name. The only insight we have of authorship is found in **Mark 14:51-52** when there is mention of “a certain young man” who fled the scene of Jesus' arrest naked. This is likely Mark who tagged along after the last supper, which was probably held at his house. There is no other reason for him to mention this incident if it was not him.

John Mark is mentioned ten times in the New Testament. He is often infamously remembered, by a casual reader, for his conflict with the apostle Paul. His mother was a wealthy and prominent Christian in the Jerusalem church, the church probably met in their home (mentioned above), and he was well connected. Therefore, John Mark joined Paul and Barnabas (his cousin or uncle) on the first missionary journey, but not on the second because of a strong disagreement about John Mark's presence (**Acts 15:37-38**). He may have been homesick, or worried about his mother, but it still frustrated Paul. However, near the end of Paul's life he called for Mark to be with him (**II Timothy 4:11**).

It is likely that in the first century John Mark was known more for his association with the Apostle Peter, who was evidently his spiritual son in the faith (**I Peter 5:13**). From Peter he received first-hand information concerning the events and teachings of Jesus. Early scholarship notes that John Mark preserved the information in written form. Around 140 AD Papias wrote that the Apostle John called Mark the interpreter for the Apostle Peter's work and Justin Martyr called Mark's gospel "the memoirs of Peter."

Date:

As stated in the lesson on Matthew, the Gospels are difficult to date, but the consensus is that this book was written between 50-60 AD. It may have been the first "complete" gospel written. It is also likely that Matthew and Luke used John Mark as a source. Roughly 95% percent of Mark is found in the gospel of Matthew and/or the gospel of Luke.

Theme:

The theme of his gospel seems to be that Jesus is the Messiah. John Mark is the "Joe Friday" gospel writer with his "Just the facts, Maam" approach. His details surrounding Palestine, especially Jerusalem, give him depth and detail, but the swift transitions show his story as one of re-telling and not personal eyewitness testimony.

John Mark does an excellent job of presenting the military might of Jesus. We see his power, through the stories of him casting out demons, healing a wide range of physical ailments, calming emotional turmoil, silencing government fears, and discussing his own role in the judgment of mankind. However, Mark will also reveal Jesus' service and sacrifice.

Audience:

Mark's gospel seems to be written for Roman believers, particularly Gentiles. He understood Jewish customs, but he wrote in such a way that the Romans could understand. He uses ten Latin words, some of which do not occur elsewhere in the New Testament, but he balances those things by explaining Jewish customs and traditions. He chooses to omit the genealogy of Jesus and jumps right into Jesus' ministry. He ignores the long narratives (i.e. Sermon on the Mount, Sermon on the Plain). He also rarely quotes from the Old Testament. However, when he does it is used to fit his theme, that Jesus is the Messiah.

It was at the time of the writing that Christians in Rome were beginning to experience persecution under the Roman government. They needed guidance and encouragement. Mark hoped that his gospel would help to build up their faith. Unlike the other accounts, the Gospel of Mark is not just a collection of sermons, stories, and miracles, but a simple narrative to reveal the Messiah. The Gentiles needed to hear Jesus' story in their own unique way, so John Mark hoped his gospel would suffice.

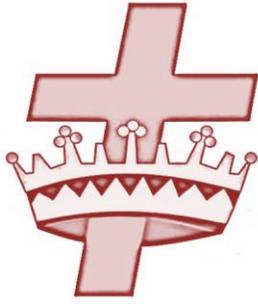
There are many uniquely Roman traditions mentioned in the Gospel of Mark, but one of the most interesting is the mention of Simon of Cyrene (**Mark 15:21-28**). Roman soldiers often required services from its citizens without payment. The Jews often were forced to serve as porters for a set distance (one mile - **Matthew 5:41**). As a Jewish North African, visiting for Passover, Simon gets forced into carrying the cross for Jesus. This must have had a lasting effect on Simon and his sons Alexander and Rufus (**Romans 16:13**). A Roman could relate to that story more than anyone else.

Key Verses:

Mark 1:11, 1:17, 1:38, 3:31-35, 5:19, 6:30-44, 8:1-12, 8:22-26, 9:1, 9:38-50, 10:13-16, 10:32-45, 11:6-11, 11:15-19, 12:17, 12:29-33, 12:38-44, 13:28-37, 14:51, 14:66-72, 15:21-28, 16:15-18

Outline:

- I. *The Early Ministry of Jesus (1:1-45)*
- II. *The Conflicts with Jesus (2:1-3:35)*
- III. *The Parables of Jesus (4:1-34)*
- IV. *The Miracles of Jesus (4:35-5:34)*
- V. *The Followers of Jesus (6:1-8:21)*
- VI. *The Mission of Jesus (8:22-9:50)*
- VII. *The Teachings of Jesus (10:1-52)*
- VIII. *The Authority of Jesus (11:1-12:44)*
- IX. *The Prophecy of Jesus (13:1-37)*
- X. *The Persecution of Jesus (14:1-52)*
- XI. *The Rejection of Jesus (14:53-15:15)*
- XII. *The Completed work of Jesus (15:16-16:20)*



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Study Guide for the Gospel of Mark

Gulf Shores Church of Christ (by Ray Reynolds)

Lesson #1= The Early Ministry of Jesus (1:1-45)

I. The forerunner of Jesus (1:1-8)

* Who prophesied of John's coming? What does it say?

* What does it mean to prepare the way for Christ?

II. The baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)

* What kind of a baptism did John offer?

* What kind of a baptism did Jesus offer?

III. The temptation of Jesus (1:12-13)

* Why did Jesus go into the wilderness? Explain.

* What happened after Jesus was tempted?

IV. The preaching of Jesus (1:14-15)

* What was the first message of Jesus? Why?

* Where did Jesus begin His ministry? Why?

V. The followers of Jesus (1:16-20)

* Who were the first disciples to be called by Jesus?

* What was their response? Can we learn from this?

VI. The miracles of Jesus (1:21-34, 40-45)

* What were the first miracles of Jesus recorded by Mark?

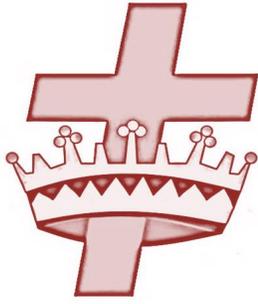
* How did the people respond to these miracles? Why?

VII. The devotion of Jesus (1:35-39)

* What can we learn from the prayer life of Jesus?

* What compelled Jesus to serve and minister to the people?

* What can we learn from the mission of Jesus?



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Study Guide for the Gospel of Mark

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Lesson #2= The Conflicts With Jesus (2:1-3:35)

I. Conflict about forgiveness (2:1-12)

- * What are some of the fascinating details of this story?
- * Why was this miracle so controversial? Explain.

II. Conflict about fellowship (2:13-17)

- * What is so significant about Matthew's calling?
- * Why was the fellowship with tax collectors condemned?

III. Conflict about fasting (2:18-22)

- * Why did the disciples of John the Baptizer fast?
- * What did Jesus say about His disciples and their fasting?
- * How did the wineskins argument diffuse the Pharisees?

IV. Conflict about following (2:23-3:19)

- * What can we learn from the story of David?
- * Why was the issue of the Sabbath day such a stumbling block?
- * Who were the twelve? What was their role?

V. Conflict about friendship (3:20-21)

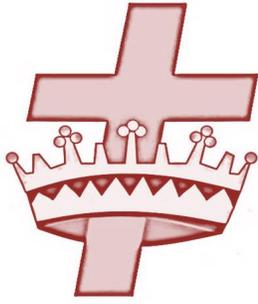
- * Why were they unable to eat bread in the house?
- * Who was so offended by these events? Why?

VI. Conflict about faithfulness (3:22-30)

- * How did the various arguments and parables help Jesus' case?
- * Why was the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit eternally condemned?

VII. Conflict about family (3:31-35)

- * Who are the mother and brothers of Jesus?
- * Why did Jesus say these things? Can the church learn from it?



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Lesson #3 = The Parables of Jesus (4:1-34)

I. The parable of the sower (4:1-20)

- * Why did Jesus teach in the midst of the sea on a boat?
- * What can we learn from the different soils?
- * Why did Jesus say "he who has ears" to hear?
- * What was Jesus' explanation for His use of parables?

II. The parable of the lamp (4:21-25)

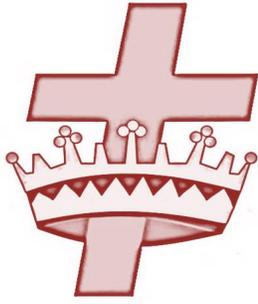
- * What do you do with a lamp? Why?
- * Who were supposed to learn the most from these stories?
- * What does this tell us about Jesus' plan for His disciples?
- * Why does God give us much? What does He expect from us?
- * What were the disciples supposed to glean from this teaching?

III. The parable of the seed (4:26-29)

- * What does the growing seed illustration reveal to us?
- * Why does Jesus give the process for the harvest?
- * How does this relate to the maturation of a Christian?
- * What can we learn about God's wisdom from this harvest?
- * Why do we doubt God's ability or knowledge?

IV. The parable of the mustard seed (4:30-34)

- * What is the size of a mustard seed?
- * Why is that so significant when discussing the kingdom of God?
- * What benefits are there to the mustard tree in the garden?
- * Why is this illustration so popular?



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Lesson #4= The Miracles of Jesus (4:35-5:34)

I. Jesus stills the storm (4:35-41)

- * Why did Jesus decide to cross the sea?
- * What happened while they were on the journey?
- * Is there significance to Jesus sleeping in the boat? Explain.
- * What happened after Jesus spoke?
- * Why was faith the disciples at the heart of Jesus' rebuke?

II. Jesus heals the demoniac (5:1-20)

- * What happened when they got out of the boat?
- * Why was this man chained? What can we learn about this man and his behavior?
- * Why did the man worship Jesus?
- * What did Jesus do to Legion? Why?

III. Jesus raises Jairus' daughter (5:21-24, 35-43)

- * Why did Jesus return to the other side of the sea?
- * Who was it that came to Jesus for help? Why?
- * How did Jesus react to the man's request?
- * Why did the delay with the woman lead to a greater miracle?
- * What did Jesus do in the house? How did the people react?

IV. Jesus heals the bleeding woman (5:25-34)

- * Why was this woman seeking Jesus?
- * Why did she want to touch His garment?
- * How was her blood flow described?
- * Why did the disciples argue with Jesus?
- * What did Jesus call the woman? Why is that important?



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Lesson #5= The Followers of Jesus (6:1-8:21)

I. Jesus finalizes the twelve (6:1-13)

- * What do you think the disciples expected in Nazareth?
- * Why did Jesus offer the disciples such advice?

II. Jesus frustrates Herod (6:14-29)

- * Why was Herod so frustrated with Jesus & John the Baptizer?
- * Why is the death of John so significant?

III. Jesus feeds 5,000 of His followers (6:30-44)

- * Why did Jesus perform this miracle? Explain.
- * What details should we note from this miracle?

IV. Jesus frightens His followers (6:45-56)

- * How did the disciples react when Jesus walked on the water?
- * Why were they so frightened by this miracle?

V. Jesus faces the teachers (7:1-23)

- * What kind of defilement is worse, inside or outside?
- * How does the prophesy of Isaiah apply to this story?

VI. Jesus finds followers in Tyre & Sidon (7:24-37)

- * What do we know about these cities?
- * Why is the story of this Gentile woman included by Mark?

VII. Jesus feeds 4,000 of His followers (8:1-9)

- * What are the similarities to this story and the one in chapter six?
- * What differs in this story from the one in chapter six?

VIII. Jesus forewarns His disciples (8:10-21)

- * Why does Jesus offer this charge? What can we learn from it?
- * What else can we learn from this chapter?



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Lesson #6= The mission of Jesus (8:22-9:50)

I. Seeing Jesus the Christ (8:22-26)

- * How is this story the turning point of the gospel?
- * Why did Jesus do a two-fold miracle?

II. Confessing Jesus the Christ (8:27-30)

- * What was their response to Jesus' question? Explain.
- * Why did He warn them not to reveal these things?

III. Following Jesus the Christ (8:31-9:1)

- * Why would it be so difficult for the disciples to follow Jesus?
- * What are the requirements for a true disciple of Jesus?

IV. Knowing Jesus the Christ (9:2-13)

- * Why did Jesus take the three alone for the transfiguration?
- * Who appeared with Jesus? What does this symbolize?
- * What did God say to the men? Explain.

V. Believing Jesus the Christ (9:14-32)

- * What is the first thing that happens after they return?
- * Who are all the characters in this story? What are they doing?

VI. Serving Jesus the Christ (9:33-37)

- * Why were they struggling over who was the greatest?
- * How does Jesus describe true service?

VII. Helping Jesus the Christ (9:38-50)

- * What did Jesus think about sectarianism and favoritism?
- * Why is this passage so important for the followers of Jesus?
- * How is salt a wonderful example for this concept?



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Lesson #7 = The Teachings of Jesus (10:1-52)

I. Jesus teaches about divorce (10:1-12)

- * Why is this such a hard teaching? Explain.
- * What does Jesus say about marriage and divorce?
- * What are some parallel passages to this teaching?

II. Jesus teaches about little children (10:13-16)

- * How does this compare to what He said in the previous chapter?
- * Is this a profound concept? What do we learn from it?

III. Jesus teaches about riches (10:17-27)

- * Why do people trust in riches and earthly treasures?
- * What can we learn from the rich young ruler?
- * Why was this such a hard concept for the disciples to grasp?

IV. Jesus teaches about self-denial (10:28-31)

- * Why did Peter bring up the fact that they had all made sacrifices?
- * What did Jesus say in response to his statement? Why?

V. Jesus teaches about His death (10:32-34)

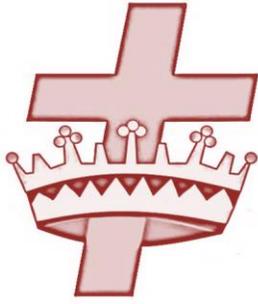
- * Were the disciples ready for this to happen? Explain.
- * Why did Jesus teach about this so often in His ministry?

VI. Jesus teaches about ambition (10:35-45)

- * Who is the greatest? Who is the least? Explain.
- * Which should we desire to be? Why?

VII. Jesus teaches about faith (10:46-52)

- * Why did the disciples struggle with a lack of faith?
- * Why did strangers have a stronger faith in Jesus?
- * What lessons can be gleaned from this story?



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Lesson #8= The Authority of Jesus (11:1-12:44)

I. The town is celebrating (11:1-11)

* Why did the people welcome Jesus in this way?

II. The tree is cursed (11:12-14, 20-26)

* Why did Jesus curse the tree? What happened later in the story?

III. The temple is cleared (11:15-19)

* Why did Jesus cleanse the temple of the Lord?

IV. The test is calculated (11:27-33)

* Why were the Jewish leaders still questioning Jesus?

V. The teaching about the cornerstone (12:1-12)

* Why did Jesus continue to teach in parables in Jerusalem?

VI. The tribute to Caesar (12:13-17)

* What was Jesus' opinion about local politics and government?

VII. The trick of the critics (12:18-27)

* How did the critics try to trip up Jesus? What can we learn?

VIII. The treatment of the commands (12:28-34)

* What is the greatest command? Explain.

IX. The truth about the Christ (12:35-37)

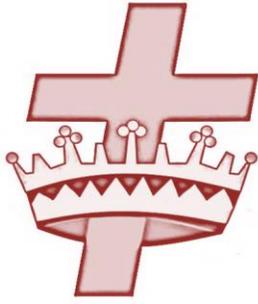
* Could they explain Jesus' question? What was His teaching?

X. The testimony of character (12:38-44)

* What can we learn from the widow's two mites?

* Why is this story so famous?

* What else can we learn from this chapter?



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Lesson #9= The Prophecy of Jesus (13:1-37)

I. The temple will be destroyed (13:1-4)

- * Why was this teaching so controversial and misunderstood?
- * What kind of a prophecy was this? Did it happen?
- * What did Jesus say regarding the signs?

II. The wars, earthquakes, and famines (13:5-8)

- * How can we see the point of Jesus' statement from this teaching?
- * Why do people still seek out a sign for the end of time?
- * Who would give dates, times, seasons, and timelines?

III. The persecution of the disciples (13:9-13)

- * Why did Jesus prepare the disciples for their persecution?
- * Did these things happen? Explain.
- * What is promised to those who endure to the end?

IV. The last sign and the time for flight (13:14-20)

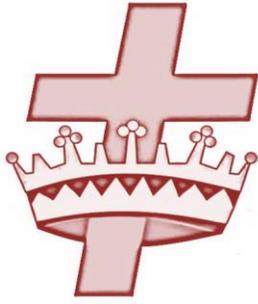
- * What is this great tribulation? When would this happen?
- * What does this have to do with the fall of Jerusalem?
- * Why does Jesus take this opportunity to teach of His death?

V. The false christs (13:21-23)

- * Should we believe people who give signs and times? Explain.
- * What was supposed to happen after the events described here?
- * Why do people confuse these three different prophecies?

VI. The coming of the Son of Man (13:24-37)

- * What does Jesus say about the hour of His coming?
- * Who knows when these things would happen? Explain.
- * What should we do in anticipation? Is this seen in the story?



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Lesson #10= The Persecution of Jesus (14:1-52)

I. The aggravation of the Jews (14:1-2)

* What were the Jews planning?

* When were they planning it? Why?

II. The anointing at Bethany (14:3-9)

* Why was this such a frustrating event to the people?

* How did this event (and others similar) anger Judas?

III. The agreement with Judas (14:10-11)

* Why did Judas make this decision?

* What do we know from reading the other gospels?

IV. The assistance for the Passover (14:12-16)

* Who made the preparations for the Passover?

* Why didn't Jesus make these preparations Himself?

V. The assurance of a betrayal (14:17-21)

* Why did Jesus prepare His disciples for this event?

* What is the significance of the Last Supper event?

VI. The approval of the Lord's Supper (14:22-26)

* What did Jesus say when they took the Passover?

* Why was this such a special event for the early Christians?

VII. The anxiety of the disciples (14:27-31)

* Why were the disciples so sorrowful?

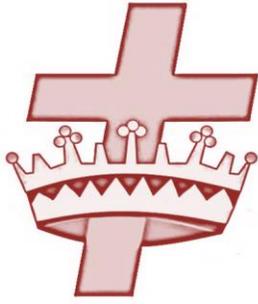
VIII. The agony in Gethsemane (14:32-42)

* What can we learn from this prayer? Explain.

IX. The arrest of Jesus (14:43-52)

* What are the details of this event? Explain.

* Who is believed to be the young man who fled naked?



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Lesson #11= The Rejection of Jesus (14:53-15:15)

I. The trial by the Sanhedrin (14:53-65)

- * Who did they take Jesus to first? Why?
- * What was the accusation brought before the counsel?
- * Why was this an unsuccessful argument?
- * What was Jesus' only response according to Mark?
- * What did they do to Jesus? How did this humiliate Him?

II. The denial of Peter (14:66-72)

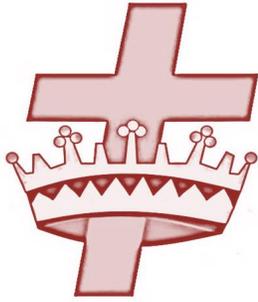
- * How many times did Peter betray Jesus?
- * What were Peter's arguments against knowing Jesus?
- * Which betrayal was more difficult, that of Peter or Judas?
- * Why did Peter follow Jesus to the courtyard? Explain.
- * How did Peter's actions in the garden affect these events?
- * What did Peter do after he heard the rooster crowing?

III. The accusal before Pilate (15:1-5)

- * Who decided to bind Jesus and deliver Him to Pilate?
- * Why did they do this? Explain.
- * What was the response of Jesus to the accusations?
- * How did Pilate respond to Jesus' actions?

IV. The refusal of Jesus (15:6-15)

- * What was the tradition before Passover with the prisoners?
- * Why did Pilate deliver Barabbas to the crowd? Why did he have Jesus scourged?
- * What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
- * How many crosses would be placed at Calvary?
- * Who was supposed to be in that middle cross? Why?



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Lesson #12= The Completed Work of Jesus (15:16-16:20)

I. The mocking of Jesus (15:16-21)

- * Why was the mocking so humiliating?
- * What else did they do to Him before reaching Calvary?

II. The crucifixion of Jesus (15:22-41)

- * What was the accusation written above His head?
- * What Scriptures were fulfilled in this event?
- * What were the things Jesus said on the cross?

III. The burial of Jesus (15:42-47)

- * Where was Jesus buried? Why did this happen?
- * Who took control of the body of Jesus? Why?
- * Which women stayed close to the graveside?

IV. The resurrection of Jesus (16:1-8)

- * Why did the women return to the grave? Explain.
- * What did the angel tell them to do? Why?

V. The appearances of Jesus (16:9-13)

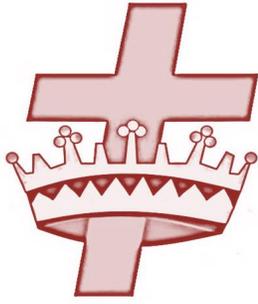
- * Who was blessed to see Jesus first after He rose from the dead?
- * What was her response?
- * What did she do next? Why is that significant?

VI. The great commission of Jesus (16:14-18)

- * What did Jesus command His disciples? Explain.
- * What encouragement did He give to them?

VII. The ascension of Jesus (16:19-20)

- * What happened after Jesus delivered this teaching?
- * How did the apostles respond after Jesus ascended?



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Lesson #13 = Review of the Gospel of Mark

I. Questions regarding the context of the book

- * Why did Mark write this book?
- * When did he write this book? Where?
- * What audience did Mark have in mind when He wrote it?
- * Which apostle is credited with assisting in this endeavor?
- * How do we know that they worked together?

II. Questions regarding the content of the book

- * What stories are the most memorable to you?
- * What parables are the most memorable to you?
- * What characters are the most memorable to you?
- * What teachings are the most memorable to you?
- * What verses are the most memorable to you?
- * What verses seem the most difficult to interpret?

III. Questions regarding the harmony of the book

- * What stories are not repeated in any other gospel?
- * What stories are found in Matthew's account?
- * What stories are found in Luke's account?
- * What stories are found in John's account?
- * What stories are found in multiple accounts?

IV. Questions regarding the words and phrases found in the book

- * What does the word parable mean to you?
- * What does the word disciple mean to you?
- * What does the word tradition mean to you?
- * What does the word worship mean to you?
- * What does the word Sabbath mean to you?