

# DISCUSSION IDEAS

## THE RESURRECTION

Mark 16:1-8

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHERE DID MARK REALLY END HIS GOSPEL?

*[In discussing this, it will be helpful to refer to the message text. Please be sensitive to those in your group who may be offended at the idea that their translation of the English Bible contains errors.]*

**Please keep in mind that whatever Bible version we read was translated into our language by humans and therefore can contain minor differences based on the translators' perspectives.**

**FACT: No questionable passage contradicts any major Bible teaching.**

**Read through the entire chapter 16 of Mark.**

**Do any of the translations in your group include a footnote comment about verses 9 to 20?**

#### **Facts regarding Mark 16:9-20:**

- 1. Verses 9-20 are not included in the earliest copies of the Gospel of Mark.**
- 2. There are multiple different endings in various source copies.**
- 3. The vocabulary and writing style contained in these verses is very different than the rest of the book.**
- 4. It is more likely these verses were added than that they were removed; the abruptness of Mark's ending at verse 8 likely prompted the addition.**

### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: SO HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT THE WORD OF GOD REALLY SAYS?

**Consider the number of complete and partial New Testament documents that have been discovered.**

**On the Institute for Creation Research website is stated:**

"The New Testament was written in first century A.D. There are some 20,000 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 100 years after the original. In contrast:

- Caesar's *Gallic Wars* was written in the first century B.C. There are only 10 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,000 years after the original.
- Aristotle's *Poetics* was written in the fourth century B.C. There are only 5 manuscripts in existence. The earliest textual evidence we have was copied 1,400 years after the original.

There are many more writings of the Church Fathers quoting sections of Scripture; we could reconstruct the entire New Testament from their writings alone. There were millions of man-hours spent in cross-checking the manuscripts. There remains only 1

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percent of all New Testament words about which questions still exist; no questionable passage contradicts any Bible teaching."<sup>1</sup>

**Take a few minutes to discuss "Aunt Sally's Letter" (in the Sunday sermon text).**

**How confident are you then, that you do have access to the true Word of God?**

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: HOW CAN FEAR HANDICAP OUR WALK WITH JESUS?**

**Re-read Mark 16:1-8 giving special attention to verses 7 and 8.**

**What were these witnesses told to do?**

**What didn't they do (immediately)?**

**Compare Matthew 28:8-10. Discuss Jesus' compassion for their fear.**

**Look at Luke 24:6-9. Why was their fear overcome?**

**Remember Peter's denials? Was fear involved?**

**Now take a look at Peter in Acts 2:14 (and on). Note that he is speaking publicly to a great many people, and is truly in danger of being arrested.**

**Read and discuss 1 Peter 4:12-19.**

**What does it mean that sharing in Jesus' sufferings will allow us to rejoice and be glad?**

**How are we to be blessed if someone insults for our stand for Christ?**

**How does all this strengthen our trust in Him?**

**Will our trust in Jesus grow if we never face opposition?**

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: AT HOME THIS WEEK:**

**We live in a world that more and more directly rebels against God.**

**How can I realistically expect to be exempt from experiencing rejection when I am identified with Him?**

**Read and meditate on Paul's command to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:7-14.**

**In what way can I also live this out?**

**Spend time re-reading and meditating on 1 Peter 4:12-19.**

**How can these words from God transform my mind?**

**How will memorizing these verses help me in my walk with Jesus?**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.icr.org/bible-manuscripts/>

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**When I pray for God's grace to live this out, how can I also pray the same thing for those around the world who are truly under persecution?**

♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

**Ask God to keep us focused on His priorities.**

**Ask Him to help us to have unshakable confidence in His faithfulness.**

**Ask Him to help us sort out Truth from distorted teachings and feelings.**

**Ask Him to help us live out His agape LOVE, both for our fellow believers, and for those who reject or ignore Him.**

**Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there.**

**Continue to pray for the Pearsons as they prepare their home for caring for John's mother.**

**Pray too for wisdom and peace and health as they continue to find various ways to serve Jesus.**

**Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.**

**Pray for encouragement for Benders and Ingvoldstads. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.**

**Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.**

**Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!**

**Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.**