**Follow – Gospel of Mark - Wk 40 – Is it Over?**

**The final week – 45 wks (40 sermons) 7 wks short of a year. I feel a bit of apprehension – I love walking with Jesus. Is this goodbye?**

**I feel like I am at the ascension. I don’t want to say goodbye. What will we do with all of this? What happens now?**

**We left off last week at the official ending of Mark… there are actually at least three endings of Mark.**

**One - Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.**

**Two - Mark 16:8b - Then they quickly reported all these instructions to those around Peter. After this, Jesus himself also sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. Amen.**

**Three - What we have in our bibles is - Mark 16:9-20 – 22 verses**

**Why are there three endings? (15 papers for manuscripts)**

**There are 27,000 manuscripts of NT. Imagine…**

**4 w/ ending One (102 of the oldest – including the 3 oldest)**

**1 w/ ending Two (older) / 10 w/ ending three (newest).**

**It is possible scribes added verses 9-20 as a conclusion.**

**What do the translators do? – include all of them with footnotes.**

**If verses 9-20 were added by someone who was not Mark or Peter – can they be trusted? Absolutely.**

**Early church fathers mention & quote the verses as early 100AD – but our oldest manuscripts do not contain them.**

**Mark did not just end - It was most likely missing – but still quoted. Early church fathers accepted it and referred to it.**

**I believe - we have what God wanted us to have and is reliable to tell us the truth.**

**These verses are basically Acts in a nutshell. (Acts is Jesus Part 2)**

**The “what happens” next with the apostles. V9-20 are events of Acts (30 yrs after Jesus).**

**We can learn a lot about what followed and our What Now?**

**Mark 16:9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. (You know Mary – the one whose life was completely turned around! She saw him first - John 20:11-18)**

**1. Jesus is alive, and we are to greatly celebrate it together every week!**

**(9 When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week…)**

**The early church began to meet every Sunday to celebrate!!**

**Acts 20:7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them… (till midnight)**

**1 Cor 16:2 – first day of the week – they met for worship…**

**Sunday became known in the scriptures as “The Lord’s Day”**

**This is why we meet every week – it is not church; it is a celebration!!!! It is easter every week! Christians churches are to be about Jesus – his story and how it relates to our life. Not about our likes…**

**2. Jesus is the great equalizer! (9 …he appeared first to Mary Magdalene)**

**Jesus chose to appear to a woman first. Jesus could have picked anyone. This is a big deal because the ancient world did not accept the testimony of women. But Jesus did - 1st evangelist was Mary!**

**Mark 16:10 She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. (Gives us idea of what Saturday looked like) 11 When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. (Did not believe) 12 Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. (Road to Emmaus Luke 24 - Clopas and another - Clopas is his uncle, Joseph’s brother / father of several disciples.) 13 These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. (Did not believe still!)**

**Passage refers to Luke 24:13-35 - Jesus spent hours with them**

**Luke 24:27 beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself**

**3. Jesus is the great fulfillment of the Old Testament!**

**The OT was a sign – pointing to Jesus. I am who you are looking for. No need to wait or look any further! Same for you.**

**Mark 16:14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; (that night - Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23) he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.**

**4. Jesus (the Word of God) is the great confronter!**

**The words of Jesus confront us – they are not easily tossed aside.**

**“What does it take for you to believe? I told you I would die and rise again? Why do you doubt my words?” I said it and these people told you it was so. Trust me!! And Those I send!**

**Jesus says trust what I tell you! My words are as good as gold. We are to know and read his word – it confronts and transforms us!**

**15 He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**

**5. Jesus gave us a great mission – tell the world the good news!**

**This is a command, not suggestion. It is expected. Clear what now!**

**To tell others about your faith was foreign to Jewish people - for them it was restricted to their culture & people. It’s revolutionary!**

**We are saved of this purpose!**

**Matt 4:19 Jesus began w/ the invitation "come and I'll make you fishers of men."**

**Mark 16:15 - Go into all the world and tell everyone the good news**

**Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

**Luke 24:47 - that the forgiveness of sins will be told to every nation…**

**John 20:21 - I am sending you into the world to tell them of my forgiveness…**

**We are not merely saved for heaven’s sake and hells avoidance.**

**We are commissioned - unleashed with purpose to tell the world**

**We call this the Great Commission - this is the heart of God**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, (Daily missions) and in all Judea (Local missions) and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Global missions)**

**We start at home and work your way out - start now – today.**

**We are called to be mindful, intentional, and deliberate.**

**This is evangelism - sent with a message, one who brings good news! (Gospel – good life changing news) This what we are all to do.**

**The Gospel - Jesus lived, died for our sins, was buried, rose again and coming back for those who believe and follow him.**

**Jesus (God) came here – to pay the penalty for our sin.**

**He died for our sin – and rose again to prove it!!!**

**This good news must be preached! It is news! Something that must be told! It must be heard or read! We must take it to all the world!**

**The gospel is not silent – it is not just loving people.**

**This is why we do outreach! Why we preach each week! Why we give invitation to know Jesus!**

 **\* Some have a spiritual gift for it, but we are all to do it.**

**1 Cor 9:16 …I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!**

**Sidebar – how few believers ever share their faith is troublesome! This is too good to keep to ourselves!**

**We are to multiply ourselves!**

**BTW – Acts 1:8 "you will be my witnesses" Are you a witness? Really? Mar-toos / martyrs - a proven genuine testimony through death**

**Simply said - Our mission is great and wonderful - but it will be difficult**

**Back to - Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (This is promise and a warning)**

**6. Jesus is our great salvation by faith, and we are commanded to be baptized.**

**Salvation is by faith! (Eph 2:8-9) This is not suggesting that we are saved by Baptism. Emphasis is on “Believes” – notice who is condemned… the one who does not believe.**

**Baptism is the follow through act of faith – the, “I am in!”**

**It is an act of obedience to Jesus and the apostles.**

* + **BTW if you have not been baptized, it is time July 18!**

**This is the invitation today – to those here who hear! Those who do not believe - will be condemned, judged, found guilty and punished. What will you do with this?**

**Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; (Acts 8:7 Unclean spirits, crying out w/ a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. (Acts 16, 19)**

**17b …they will speak in new tongues; (Acts 2 – Jewish people / Acts 10 – Roman’s people / Acts 19 – Greek People)**

**18 ...they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, (Acts of John and Eusebius Barsabbas) it will not hurt them at all; (Acts 28:3 – Paul is bitten by a poisonous snake (latches onto his hand – je shakes it off into the fire - and lives)**

**18b …they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.” (Acts 5:12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. (Acts 3:7, 19:11, 28:8-9)**

**\*\* This is the Book of Acts in 2 verses**

**7. Great miracles follow the followers of Jesus!**

**Not everything spoken here is for all of us – this was all clearly played out in the book of Acts. \*\* If we were prescribed all those things – then let get a snake box, and let’s drink poison.**

**BUT KNOW THIS - God still does the miraculous -**

**We can't forget the rag tag team of people they were - Jesus called farmers, fishermen, regular Joes, society rejects, immoral tax collectors, zealous fighters, and sinners caught in the act - to follow**

**This tells that God uses unexpected people to accomplish his mission**

**Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. (Jesus did not die again - he sits on the very throne of God – in power Right Hand!)**

**(Day 40 - the Ascension - a reference to Acts 1) Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, (3yrs of walking with him - open blind eyes, healed sick, raised the dead, conquered death itself - He's finally back! Now it's goodbye? Jesus, I want you to stay!) when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. (angels) 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? (what are you staring at?) This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (go on, get - get started!!)**

**8. Jesus will return - and it will be great!!!**

**Jesus next mission - His return. He's coming back some day. He is not lax in his coming or forgotten. You should have an expectation of His return. - The resurrection is proof of his return.**

**Reigning as King - Jesus is preparing a place for us (John 14:3) in his return.**

**Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, (multiply! God will take us places we never imagined!! If you think serving Jesus is boring – you’re not doing it right!) and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.**

**Until his return -**

**9. Jesus works with us to accomplish his great will!**

**Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**Notice how God’s presence shows up after the preaching!**

**Signs are meant to follow believers not believers who follow signs.**

**BTW – only a few of the 29 miraculous events mentions – happened in a church gathering.**

**You have never turned to Jesus – you need to today. Stop delaying – there is no better time than right now.**

**This is not goodbye – this is just the beginning!!**

**We take this with us!!**

**Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[b] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? 37 Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”**

**This section is perfect for the - What now: (after you meet Jesus)**

1. **Get in a Jesus centered Church (weekly) (9)**
2. **That preaches the whole Bible (10-13)**
3. **Read the Word of God for yourself (14)**
4. **Understand and believe the gospel (15-16)**
5. **Tell others about Jesus (15)**
6. **Be baptized (16)**
7. **Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit (17-18, 20)**
8. **Be ready for his return (19)**

**When we feel like we are drying up – go back to these.**