

Mark 15.42-16.8

Time to Decide

Near END of Study of MARK, NEVER Preached thru Before > Learned, Loved  
Suggested by Pastor Peyton > SURPRISED, HESITANT --- Talk about MARK!  
Matthew, Luke, John > SMART and IMPORTANT – Name like Mark...Well...  
FIRST Gospel – NEW Form of Literature – AMAZING MESSAGE of GOD!  
CONCLUSION – Time to Make DECISION – What will you DO about Jesus?

## 1. Facts

God so loved the WORLD He sent his SON AND SCRIPTURE

Want to MEET God? Must KNOW JESUS >> Want to Know Jesus? Read Bible

MARK is Volume # 41 in God's 66 Volume collection > HOLY BIBLE / book

a. People > God's Book tells about PEOPLE

v. 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council

v. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead.

SURPRISE > Purpose of CROSS was MAXIMIZE Suffering – Long as Possible

MANY hung in AGONY for DAYS – then Corpse EATEN by VULTURES

v. 44 Jesus had already died.

OFFICIAL Pronouncement – 100% Effectiveness – CROSSES Kill, ALWAYS

NO SWOON – NOT Revived in Tomb > DIED and BURIED in Tomb

v. 47 Mary Magdalene v. 47 Mary the mother of Joses

v. 1 Mary the mother of James - VIRGIN MARY – James Jesus' ½ Brother

v. 1 Salome

WOMEN who SAW – Jesus CRUCIFIED, NOW saw Him BURIED & RISEN

In first-century Palestine... a woman's...testimony would be inadmissible in a court of law. As witnesses they had no standing! No one who wanted to fabricate a convincing account of resurrection in first-century Palestine would ever dream of doing it this way.

Sinclair Ferguson

v. 5 a young man dressed in a white robe > ANGEL > Son of Man in GLORY

v. 6 "...Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!"

MARK makes SIMPLE Historical Claim: SAME Jesus – Dead, Buried, Risen

b. Places > God's Book tells about PLACES

1<sup>st</sup> Part of GOSPEL in GALILEE & JUDEA > Then on PALM SUNDAY...

Jesus entered Jerusalem....

Mark 11:11

THERE He was TRIED – CONVICTED – CRUCIFIED – BURIED – ROSE

v. 46 a tomb cut out of rock

Very LIKELY in CLOSE PROXIMITY to the place CROSS was LOCATED  
EXACT SITE is UNCERTAIN > 2000 yrs of CHANGE > WARFARE, SIEGE  
TYPICAL Tomb in JERUSALEM of THAT DAY – Entrance & Inner Chamber  
ENEMIES Thought they were FINISHED with JESUS >> CORPSE Remained

...people sentenced to death forfeited their property and were forbidden burial

*Tacitus Roman historian*

In antiquity the execution of a condemned man did not mark the final moment of his humiliation. Roman law dictated the loss of all honors in death, and even the right of burial was determined by magisterial decree.

William Lane

NOBODY IMPORTANT was Crucified > No Victim Worthy of NEW Tomb

700 Years EARLIER – Prophet ISAIAH saw these Events and PREDICTED:  
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death

Isaiah 53.9

GRAVE – Between 2 Guilty THIEVES

DEATH – Placed in Expensive Tomb of Prominent Leader

c. Parchments > God's Book Accurately preserved for us through Parchments

We DO NOT Have the ORIGINAL Copy written by HAND of Mark > LOST  
We do have COPIES & COPIES of the COPIES > AMAZING ACCURACY

Author	Date Written	Earliest Copy	Approx. Time Span between original & copy	Number of Copies	Accuracy of Copies
Lucretius	died 55 or 53 B.C.		1100 yrs	2	-----
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1200 yrs	7	-----
Julius Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1000	10	-----
Tacitus	circa 100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1000 yrs	20	-----
Aristotle	384-322 B.C.	1100 A.D.	1400	49	-----
Sophocles	496-406 B.C.	1000 A.D.	1400 yrs	193	-----
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643	95%
New Testament	1st Cent. A.D. (50-100 A.D.)	2nd Cent. A.D. (c. 130 A.D. fragment)	less than 100 years	5686	99.5%

There are presently 5,686 Greek manuscripts in existence today for the New Testament...thousands more than any other ancient writing. The internal consistency of the NT documents is about 99.5% textually pure. That is an amazing accuracy. In addition there are over 19,000 in copies in the Syriac, Latin, Coptic, and Aramaic languages. The total supporting New Testament manuscript base is over 24,000. Almost all biblical scholars agree that the New Testament documents were all written before the close of the first century. If Jesus was crucified in 30 A.D., then that means that the entire New Testament was completed within 70 years...there were plenty of people around when the New Testament documents were penned who could have contested the writings...But, we have absolutely no ancient documents contemporary with the first century that contest the New Testament texts.

Matthew J. Slick

Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry

<http://www.carm.org/questions/about-bible/manuscript-evidence-superior-new-testament-reliability>

## 2. Faith

a. Analysis – What are you going to do with these facts?

Some SAY – I'd Believe IF I could SEE, HEAR, TOUCH Jesus! MANY Did

Jesus could no longer enter a town openly...Yet the *people still came to him from everywhere*.  
Mark 1:45

When they heard all he was doing, *many people* came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.  
Mark 3.8

King Herod heard about this, for *Jesus' name had become well known*. Mark 6:14

...so many people were coming and going that Jesus and his apostles did not even have a chance to eat  
Mark 6:30-31

As soon as *all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder* and ran to greet him.  
Mark 9:15

ON His FINAL Night on EARTH – in Garden of GETHSEMANE:  
Then everyone deserted him and fled.  
Mark 14:50

Were FEW Faithful WOMEN who Stood at CROSS > Now go to His GRAVE

vs. 2,3 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

QUESTION Mark NEVER Answers > HOW does Stone GET MOVED?

Walk to TOMB > EXERCISE in FUTILITY > NOTHING they Could DO

Women FOLLOWED HEARTS NOT HEADS > LOVE but LUNACY

EVEN IF Stone was Removed > FIND BODY already DECOMPOSING

NOTHING in Narrative HINTS they EXPECTED JESUS to be ALIVE Again

## b. Interpretation

GOSPEL is written from FAITH PERSPECTIVE of a BELIEVING Author  
NOT – HIDDEN AGENDA --- FAITH VIEWPOINT --- Right UP FRONT:

The beginning of the gospel about *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*. Mark 1.1

**NAME = Jesus / 2 TITLES = Christ, God / POSITION = Son**

DEMONS & Evil Spirits: Confess TRUTH before CLUELESS DISCIPLES!

a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him...He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, *Jesus, Son of the Most High God?*"  
Mark 5.2,7

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "*You are the Christ.*"  
Mark 8.29

FINALLY! They GET IT --- Sort of...!

When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, "*Surely this man was the Son of God!*" Mark 15:39

History can declare only that Jesus body disappeared, but this baffling fact fails to communicate the gospel. The event of Jesus resurrection is open to understanding only through a word of revelation received in faith. William Lane

### c. Declaration

PROBLEM with Mark's Gospel > Other 3 Gospels BOLD, CLEAR Testimony

Jesus is ALIVE – Disciples are CONVINCED – World will be CHANGED!

Mark > NO MEN Around – Hiding in FEAR – WOMEN there but AFRAID Too

v. 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

LAST Verse in ALL MSS of Mark > Story ENDS with THUD!

Honest, NORMAL Reaction > SHOCKING, Paralyzing, TAKES Breath AWAY

// FAMILY Member DIES SUDDENLY

World Trade Center > CRASHES to the GROUND

EARTHQUAKE Levels a CITY > PRESIDENT is SHOT

FEAR is the NORMAL Response to GOD'S GREATNESS Revealed in Mark

"Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm...*They were terrified* and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:39,41

they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and *they were afraid.* Mark 5:15

"Who touched my clothes?" ...Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, *trembling with fear* Mark 5:30,33

he (Jesus) went out to them, walking on the lake...They cried out, because *they all saw him and were terrified.* Mark 6:48,50

He was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white...

He (Peter) did not know what to say, *they were so frightened.* Mark 9:2-6

MUST'VE been REALLY SOMETHING for **PETER** to be SPEECHLESS

"The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." But they did not understand what he meant and *were afraid to ask him* about it. Mark 9:31-32

PATTERN of Mark > FEAR & SILENCE of Women POINTS to REALITY

TRUE MIRACLE of God: BUNCH of EXCITED Women TOTALLY SILENT!

The account of the empty tomb is soul-shaking...an event beyond human comprehension and therefore awesome and frightening...The ending leaves the reader confronted by the witness of an empty tomb interpreted by the word of revelation. The focus on human inadequacy, lack of understanding and weakness throws into bold relief the action of God and its meaning. William Lane

### 3. Feelings

Wednesday Evening walking w/ Granddaughter > Met by MORMON M's

2 Young Americans in White Shirts and Ties – Black Badges > ELDER

Could not CALL ELDER: 1. Too Young 2. Bible: Elder = Holds TRUE Doctrine

Studied this RELIGION – Almost JOINED before became BELIEVER

Told CONTRA Bible & History > but “the Lord has convinced my heart!”

“...you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that *your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.*”

Doctrine & Covenant 9:8

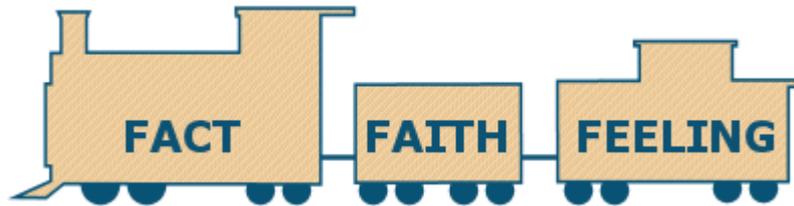
MANY Faiths & Philosophies based on MERE FEELINGS

Love Song > “**How could it be WRONG when it FEELS so RIGHT?**”

a. Feelings: Cannot Take you to God

A Christianity based just on feeling has the disturbing outcome of placing ourselves at the center of our faith. Julie Clawson

This train diagram illustrates the connection between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (a result of our faith and obedience).



A train is pulled by the engine (fact), not the carriage (feeling). In the same way, put your trust in the facts of God's trustworthiness and His promises. The more fuel of faith (trust) that is put into the facts of God's promises the more His power will be released in your life. Do not allow your faith to depend on your feelings. Four Spiritual Laws

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered. Proverbs 28:26

In Mark > God uses 2 YOUNG MEN to Communicate SAVING FACTS –

**1<sup>st</sup> Young Men was NAKED – Father of the STREAKER MOVEMENT –**

A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. Mark 14:51-52

Mark's UNUSUAL AUTOGRAPH – When ALL LEFT JESUS He Did TOO  
He LEFT his CLOTHES TOO!

Eventually MARK Got DRESSED – Sat Down to PEN this FIRST GOSPEL  
2<sup>nd</sup> YOUNG MAN – DRESSED! – Wearing ANGELIC GLORY....

vs. 5-7 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples....

Walking into GRAVE is SPOOKY > SHOCK to see NO Corpse but ANGEL!

Tells them CALM DOWN – HEAR this NEWS – BELIEVE this FACT

Guide your HEART with your HEAD > TRUST God's WORD and SPIRIT

I am unwilling to accept with my heart a faith that fails to convince my mind. A compelling faith, and nothing short of it, is required if I am to give myself, heart and soul, to its claims.  
Michael Horton

## b. Feelings: Can be Transformed by God

WEAKNESS of TRAIN: Facts, Faith, Feeling NOT in NEAT, Separate Boxcars  
We're COMPLEX, WHOLE, MIXED-UP People: Body & Spirit / Head & Heart  
USEFUL Diagram – Makes IMPORTANT Point – Does NOT Say Everything  
REST of STORY > God wants to TRANSFORM our EMOTIONS for HIM

### 1) Jesus

Mark reveals More of Jesus EMOTIONS than any of the Four Evangelists  
Real MAN JESUS – PASSIONATE, FEELINGS > NOT SINFUL to Feel

*Filled with compassion*, Jesus reached out his hand Mark 1.41

He looked around at them in *anger* and, *deeply distressed* at their stubborn hearts  
Mark 3.5

And he was *amazed at their lack of faith*. Mark 6.6

Jesus saw a large crowd, he had *compassion* on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Mark 6.34

"I have *compassion* for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat." Mark 8.2

"O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "*how long shall I stay with you?*"  
Mark 9.19

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, *he was indignant*. Mark 10.13,14

Jesus looked at him and *loved him*. Mark 10.21

"My soul is *overwhelmed with sorrow* to the point of death" Mark 14.34

"My God, my God, why have you *forsaken* me?"

Mark 15.34

PERFECT Man > FEELINGS were HOLY, PURE, and RIGHTEOUS

We're to be LIKE HIM: Have Him Transform our HEAD, HANDS, HEARTS

Let us affirm the slogan (*i.e. facts, faith, feelings*) when it means that physical sensations are not essential. But let us also make clear that the locomotive of fact is not headed for heaven if it is not followed by a faith that treasures Christ, and if it is not pulling a caboose-load of imperfect, but new, affections. John Piper

## 2) Joseph

v. 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

GREAT Example of MAN TRANSFORMED by God > Head, Hands, Heart

Admire VALIANT Women Faithful at TOMB > **WHERE were the MEN???**

They had NO MORE to LOSE > Years BEFORE they had Cut their LOSES

Hitched WAGONS to STAR Named Jesus > Now He had CRASHED & Burned

Joseph takes His STAND AMIDST the Ashes > EVERYTHING to LOOSE

HOPED Jesus would ESTABLISH KINGDOM of God > He's DEAD NOW!

**At THAT Point:** Jesus MAY be MARTYR but Clearly NOT the MESSIAH

Joseph THROWS Away his Prominence, Position, & Prestige for a CORPSE

Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action.

Luke 23.50

a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus

Matthew 27.57

We may be grateful that the gospel story includes men like Joseph – not easily persuaded, not naturally given to public demonstration of their loyalties, but in the crisis ready to rise to the occasion as a disciple.

Donald English

Before THIS MOMENT was QUIET, RESERVED, Secret Follower  
 Now THINKS Needs of BODY of Jesus Demand CLEAR, BOLD STAND  
 NEED of THIS BODY – ICF – Requires you to BOLD, RISK-TAKING Service  
 3) Church

STRANGE Ending v. 8 Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

REMEMBER this is MARK > MAN who RAN AWAY – Scared, Silent, Afraid

Ch 14 > Ran away NAKED > Then in Book of ACTS --- Ran Away DRESSED

WATERBOY Greatest M Team in Church History: FAILED Cousin Barnabas

John left them to return to Jerusalem. Acts 13:13

BECAME Source of CONTENTION > Led to SEPARATION of Team

Because of MARK > Paul and Barnabas had SHARP DISAGREEMENT

REST of Story > Last Chapter of Scripture PAUL wrote before HIS DEATH  
 Get Mark and bring him with you, because *he is helpful to me* in my ministry  
 2 Timothy 4:11

Last Chapter of PETER's FIRST LETTER > She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does *my son Mark*. 1 Peter 5:13

GOD of GRACE and RESTORATION > RENEWS Head, Hands, & Hearts

Disappointing RUN-AWAY > Homeboy with Apostle to Gentile and A to Jews

W/ PETER in BABYLON – Code Name for ROME – Peter #1 Source of Gospel

FEW SCARED and SILENT Women > GROWN > Church Now in ROME

Thru NO CREDIT of THEIR Own or OUR Own > Here we are TODAY!!

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing... Colossians 1:6

**For YOU – For ME – For the WHOLE WORLD > It is TIME to DECIDE**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Mark 15:42-16:8

42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, 43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. 44 Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. 45 When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. 47 Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. 16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb 3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 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.

\*\*\*\*\*