

THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Three~

“He Is Risen!”

Mark 15:42-16:8



Life Groups

We continue our study of the book of Mark entitled “The Surprising Jesus.” Whether you work through these studies on your own, with a friend, or with a UPC Life Group, they will help you develop a HEAD that enjoys God’s truth, a HEART of love for God and neighbor, and HANDS eager to serve the King.

Note ... Normally, these weekly studies are coordinated with the Sunday sermons at UPC. In keeping with the Easter season, this week’s study **skips forward** to the Resurrection story in Mark 16.

First, let’s **look back** to last Sunday’s sermon on the Triumphal Entry (Mark 11:1-11). If you missed that sermon, you can listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

LOOK BACK – Mark 11:1-11

In this section, Mark gives us his account of what happened to Jesus on Sunday of His final week on earth. In just a few days Jesus would be rejected by His friends; condemned by His fellow Jews; and tried, sentenced, and killed for “insurrection” by the Roman authorities. But on Sunday of Holy Week Jesus was given a hero’s welcome by the citizens of Jerusalem.

a) Read Zechariah 9:9. In light of that verse from the Old Testament, what ideas, images, or feelings are conveyed by Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey?

b) As you observe the behavior of the crowd in verses 8-10, what kind of king do you think they expected the Messiah to be?

c) Read Luke’s account of the Triumphal Entry in Luke 19:37-44. What do you find surprising about Jesus’ reaction to the crowd?

d) What explains why “Hosanna!” changed to “Crucify him!” just a few days later?

LOOK UP – Mark 15:42-16:8

Christians down through the ages have professed their faith using the Apostles’ Creed. This week’s study shows why the Creed states, “The third day He rose again from the dead.” On Friday and Saturday of Holy Week, the body of Jesus lay in the tomb. On Easter Sunday morning, He rose again!

Mark 15:42-47 – The Burial of Jesus

a) Make a list of all the details Mark gives us about how Joseph of Arimathea cared for the body of Jesus. What do you think Mark was trying to convey with these details?

b) What did it cost Joseph to do these things for Jesus’ dead body?

c) Read John’s account of the burial of Jesus in John 19:38-42. What new insights does this version of the story give you?

d) Why is it significant that Mark names other eyewitnesses to the burial of Jesus in verse 47?

Mark 16:1-8 – The Resurrection of Jesus

a) What do you suppose were the fears, concerns, and other emotions on the hearts of the women named in verse 1, as they walked to the tomb?

b) Who was the young man dressed in white in verse 5?

c) Notice that the angel tells the women, “But go, tell his disciples *and Peter*” in verse 7. Peter was one of the disciples. So why do you suppose the angel thought it necessary to specify Peter by name?

LOOK IN – Reflect

a) What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you?

b) The resurrection transformed the disciples from people of fear to people of faith. Why did it have such dramatic impact upon them?

c) Read Romans 6:1-14. This passage says that those who have received Christ share in His resurrection power over sin. Is this your experience? Why or why not?

LOOK OUT – Apply

The Heidelberg Catechism, written in 1563, asks, “How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us?” Read the answer out loud: “First, by His resurrection He has overcome death, so that He might make us share in the righteousness He won for us by His death. Second, by His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life. Third, Christ’s resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.” Preach the gospel to yourself this week by repeating that answer once a day...and believe it!