

**Mark 16:1-20 (NASB)**

**The Empty Tomb (16:1-8)**

<sup>1</sup> When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. <sup>2</sup> Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. <sup>3</sup> They were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?” <sup>4</sup> Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large. <sup>5</sup> Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed. <sup>6</sup> And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. <sup>7</sup> “But go, tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you.’ ” <sup>8</sup> They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**The First Appearances (16:9-13)**

<sup>9</sup> [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. <sup>11</sup> When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it. <sup>12</sup> After that, He appeared

in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country. <sup>13</sup> They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

### **The Great Commission (16:14-20)**

<sup>14</sup> Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. <sup>17</sup> "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." <sup>19</sup> So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.] [And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

## Reflection Questions

### Mark 16:1-20

1. Mary, Mary and Salome went to the tomb once the Sabbath had ended in order show respect and honor to Jesus by caring for His body. When you have attended a memorial service/funeral for a family member or close friend, what emotions have you felt?
2. What thoughts would have run through your mind if you had approached the tomb and found the stone rolled away?
3. As the women entered the tomb and were told that Jesus had risen, we can only imagine the array of thoughts and emotions they had. Reflect on a time when you were confronted with something that was confusing, exciting and encouraging all at the same time.
4. Mary told the disciples that Jesus had risen and appeared to her, but they refused to believe. What do you see as possible reasons for their disbelief? If you were there at that time, do you think you would have believed or disbelieved?
5. Jesus told the disciples to *preach the gospel...* Literally this means to *proclaim the good news (of Jesus)*. How many different ways can you think of to proclaim the good news of Jesus? Which one(s) are you most and least comfortable with? With whom have you done this?
6. The passage mentions certain signs that will accompany those who believe. Now while there is some debate about the authenticity of verses 9-20, the question of signs is an interesting one. What signs have you seen in others that authenticate their faith in Jesus? In yourself?
7. Identify one “take-away” from this passage and reflect on how you will apply it to your life.