

Mark

Chapter 16

Chapter 16 tells the story of Easter morning. Notice that there's no paragraph about Saturday.

In verses 1-8 we have the story of the resurrection. The three women mentioned in the last chapter here returned with spices to anoint Jesus' body. Again each of the gospels tell the story a little differently. Here the Angel tells them to go tell the disciples and Peter. Why is Peter named separately? And in this story they are to go to Galilee, Matthew will also pick that up but for Luke and John they seem to stay in Jerusalem.

Your Bible might indicate that the original gospel ended with verse 8. But that would be an odd ending and the good news of the resurrection would never have been told had that been the ending. So your Bible may have two endings that were added two different copies of the gospel. You may also have further footnotes of other endings. What do you make of all of that?

What do you make of the shorter ending? Can you see why some might have thought that wasn't an ending either and so added the longer ending? Notice the name of Peter is lifted here again.

In the longer ending of verses 9-20 we have a few things unique to Mark. Here, Mary Magdalene goes and tells the disciples but none of them run to check it out instead they don't believe her. This was not the doubting Thomas story from the Gospel of John, but the doubting 11 story. And even when two others walking in the country see Jesus and go back to tell the 11, they doubt them as well.

This is not quite the story we remember. What do you remember?

And they do not go to Galilee but instead it seems they are at the upper room table when Jesus appears to them. He criticizes them for not believing what others had told them and then sends them out into the world to share the good news.

What do you make of Jesus telling them that by various signs, like being able to handle poisonous snakes or drink poison and not be harmed, people will come to believe? We don't do that, but what do we do? By what signs or actions we do might people come to believe in Jesus? What more could we be doing?