

Title: How Firm A Foundation

Passage: Mark 16:9-20

Introduction:

Today's passage was not in the earliest manuscripts.

- Does that mean the Bible has errors? No!

“Statement of Faith - What We Believe” - Trinity Community Church:

The Bible was penned by men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is true and inerrant in the original manuscripts, and is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be measured (Psalm 19:7-11; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

<https://trinitycc.com/what-we-believe/>

- The inerrancy of the Bible is clear.
- Resource: The Chicago Statements on Biblical Inerrancy (1978)
 - Scriptures is either totally true or totally false
 - The Holy Spirit not only inspired the Bible but has also preserved the Word.
- 25,000 ancient manuscripts survive today. The New Testament can be compiled entirely by early church fathers' writings.
- Counter-argument: many variants among the manuscripts.
 - Truth:: many of the variants/discrepancies between manuscripts concerns non-substantial issues such as spelling (there was no standard) or prepositions.
 - Nothing threatens the original meaning of Scripture.
- The Gospel of Mark originally ended on Mark 16:8.
- While today's passage Mark 16:9-20 may not have been in the earliest manuscripts, they are consistent with the rest of Scripture.
 - Still true to fact and still profitable for learning.
 - Referenced many other Scriptures.

Passage: Mark 16:9-20

Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

EXPOSITION

Overview:

1. Believe Him (v.9 - 14)

2. Preach Him (v.15 - 18)
3. Trust Him (v.19 - 20)

I. BELIEVE HIM (v.9 - 14)

Mark 16:9

Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

Now when he

- Who? Connecting to Jesus.

he appeared first to Mary Magdalene

- repeating the fact that Jesus appeared to Mary after His resurrection.

Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

Luke 8:2

and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,

Mark 16:10

She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

- Mary went to the disciples after seeing Jesus.

John 20:18

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"—and that he had said these things to her.

Mark 16:11

But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

- Pointing to the theme of issue of disbelief
 - V. 11: they would not believe it
 - V. 13: they did not believe them
 - V. 14: rebuked them for their unbelief

Mark 16:12

After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country.

- Jesus' appearance on road to Emmaus
 - See complete story in Luke 24: 13-34
- Jesus appears to two of His followers (not disciples).

Luke 24:19-24 (disciples thinking)

And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a

vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

Luke 24:25-27 (Jesus’ response)

And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Mark 16:13

And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

- disciples not only ignored Mary but also Cleopas. Now what?...

Luke 24:32-34

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together.

Mark 16:14

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

- Previously, the disciples only had reports of Jesus’ resurrection.
- Jesus then rebukes them. Notice His heart.

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- Jesus loved them and still loved them despite their abandonment of Him.
- When we are at our worst, Jesus is at His best.

he rebuked them

Matthew 28:10

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

- Jesus still referenced him as His “brothers.”
- not condescending but as edifying in love
 - Jesus doesn’t repeat their past sins.
- What does Jesus rebuke?

for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

- Basis for rebuke: disbelief
- Was it harsh? No.

Luke 24:36-40 (Jesus Appears to His Disciples)

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

- In Jesus' rebuke, His focus is on their unbelief.
- Not to put down but to build up.

Luke 24:41-43

And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

II. PREACH HIM (v.15 - 18)

Mark 16:15

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

- Jesus' knighting of His disciples / calling them to be ambassadors for His kingdom.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Mark 16:16

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

- baptism = public proclamation of one's allegiance and identification to Jesus the King

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- references to other Gospels:

Matthew 10:5-8 (Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles)

These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.

Acts 28:5-6 (Peter bitten by snake)

He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- What preach? All that Jesus has commanded. All of the truth.

III. TRUST HIM (v.19 - 20)

Mark 16:19

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 16:19

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

- Clear message: Jesus is the King!

Jesus' supreme kingship:

Psalms 110:1

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

Psalms 2:7-9

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Mark 16:20

And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

went out and preached everywhere

- what to do

while the Lord worked with them

- who equips them

2 Timothy 3:16 - 4:2

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

1 Corinthians 1:23

but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

APPLICATION

Love Jesus and fast to the inerrancy of God's Word

John 10:35

If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken

Mark 12:18-27

- Jesus held clearly to the exact words of Scripture
- Why? Because it is true and inerrant.

Matthew 5:17-18

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

- God's Word is invincible.

Matthew 5:19

Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

- Do you want to be great in God's kingdom? Do and teach the Word

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Note: you can believe in the inerrancy and exactness of Scripture but still not believe in Jesus (ex: Pharisees of Jesus' day)

Romans 12:9

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Song: "How Firm a Foundation"

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word
What more can He say than to you He hath said
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled

Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand

When through the deep waters I call thee to go
The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie
My grace all sufficient shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake
I'll never, no never, no never forsake