

# **MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL**

## **SEVENTH DIVISION**

### **VII. 16:9-20 *WHO* WILL CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE MESSIAH?**

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### VII. 16:9-20 WHO WILL CONTINUE HIS WORK?

<b>ANNOUNCE THE RESURRECTION</b> <b>(Eye witnesses)</b>	<b>PREACH THE GOSPEL</b> <b>(Sent witnesses)</b>
<p><b>16:9-11 Jesus, resurrected, appeared to Mary Magdalene – from whom he had cast out 7 demons</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) She announced the appearance to them – they wept</b></li><li><b>2) They did not believe her</b></li></ol>	<p><b>16:14-18 Jesus appeared to the apostles</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) They were seated at table</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a) He appeared to the 11</b></li><li><b>b) He reproved them for their unbelief and hardness of heart</b></li></ol></li><li><b>2) Go and preach</b><ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>a) Those who believe and are baptized will be saved</b></li><li><b>b) The signs to follow those who believe</b></li></ol></li></ol>
<p><b>16:12-13 Jesus appeared to others in another form in the country</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) They announced this to the others</b></li><li><b>2) They did not believe them either</b></li></ol>	<p><b>16:19-20 After the Lord Jesus spoke to them he was received into heaven</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1) Seated on the right hand of God</b></li><li><b>2) They preached everywhere the Lord working with them</b></li></ol> <p><b>He confirmed the word with the signs that followed them</b></p>

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### VII. 16:9-20 WHO WILL CONTINUE THE WORK OF THE MESSIAH?

Corresponding PowerPoint® presentation:  
241\_Mark\_PREACHERS\_Who\_Continues\_7th\_division\_presentation

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The outline:

FIRST SECTION: THEY ANNOUNCE THE RESURRECTION (eye witnesses)

I. Jesus, after rising again, appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast seven demons  
16:9-11

II. Jesus appeared to others out in the country 16:12-13

SECOND SECTION: *THEY PREACH THE GOSPEL (sent witnesses)*

III. Jesus Appeared To The Eleven 16:14-18

IV. The Lord Jesus helped them preach 16:19-20

Questions to aid in the study of Mark 16:9-20

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#### FIRST SECTION: *THEY ANNOUNCE THE RESURRECTION (eye witnesses)*

This last division of the gospel deals with the whole question of who would carry on the work of the Messiah.



It is divided into 4 stories or scenes.

# MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

**Who Will Continue?** 

Announce the resurrection	Preach the Gospel
Mary announced	Go and preach to every creature
Two announced	They preached everywhere

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## I. Jesus, after rising again, appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast seven demons 16:9-11

**Who will continue?** 

**16:9-11** The resurrected Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven demons

- She announced his appearance to the others who were weeping
- They did not believe her

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The author of the gospel does not conceal the fact that Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene. She had been possessed of demons! He continues to make an emphasis on the importance of helping us see that Jesus had mercy on those who did not deserve his help, and on those who could not help themselves. Let's thank God for his love and care because none of us understand fully our miserable condition before him, a God three times holy. Let's not boast, ever, of being sufficiently good to be accepted by God in our natural state, rebels and transgressors of the law and will of God. Just as he helped Mary in her impossible circumstances, he helps us as well.

Mary announced the resurrection of Jesus to the ones who had been with him, the eleven. They were sad and they were weeping. They did not believe her. We have a problem here. If it was true that Jesus had resurrected and was living, and later they had to announce it to the people, how were the people going to believe, not having seen him as the eleven had seen him?

This problem only got worse.

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## II. Jesus appeared to others out in the country 16:12-13

**Who will continue?** 

**16:12-13** Jesus appeared to two others in the countryside

- They announced this to the others
- They did not believe them either

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Jesus met two others who were walking in the country. These two went and told the others. They did not believe them either. What a problem!

I think that the Lord was preparing the eleven, and the other disciples, for their future ministry. They would know what it was like to listen to the news of the resurrection and not to be able to believe it. They would understand better the future hearers of the gospel! The disciples would know that it was extremely important to persevere in the preaching of the gospel.

### SECOND SECTION: *THEY PREACH THE GOSPEL (sent witnesses)*

## III. Jesus appeared to the eleven 16:14-18

**Who will continue?** 

**16:14-18** Jesus appeared to the eleven

They were seated at table

- He appeared to the eleven
- He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart

He commanded: Go and preach

- Those who believe and are baptized will be saved

He describes the signs to follow

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When, at last, Jesus appeared to the eleven, they were seated around the table. He rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had announced to them the resurrection. Hardness of heart was a problem for them (Mark 6:51, 52). They continued to battle with their hardness of heart. But now they understood that it was not worth rejecting the testimony of eye witnesses. They became members of the band of those who had seen Jesus alive.

We believe them because their testimony has been transferred to us in written form, with proofs of its reality, and with the help and conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Then he sent them out to preach. They were going to take the place Jesus had always taken at the head of his band of disciples, preaching and teaching the word. In spite of their failures and limitations the Lord left the work in their hands, and now in ours, the great work of the preaching of the gospel. But, how can it be? It's not possible! I don't believe it! What a privilege!

# MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

Jesus told them that those who believed and were baptized would be saved. Here we see the inner testimony, to believe, mentioned, and also the exterior testimony, baptism, mentioned. The rest of the New Testament helps us understand the relation between these two important realities.

Jesus also listed the signs that would follow those who believed:

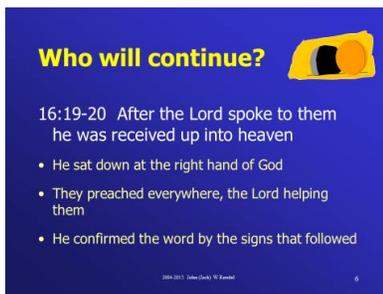
1. *In my name they will cast out demons...*
2. *...they will speak in new tongues...*
3. *...they will pick up serpents in their hands...*
4. *...if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them...*
5. *...they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover (16:17b-18 ESV).*

All these signs except the fourth are mentioned in the New Testament. Maybe this is one of the reasons why some they believe that this last part of the gospel, 16:9-20, is not part of the original gospel written by John Mark.

But there is another thing that is widely discussed, and that is if these signs were limited to the circle of the eleven apostles, Paul, and to that first generation of believers, that is to say the apostolic era, or if these things should be considered and expected of believers, especially the leaders, in every era.

Even though I have a position that I prefer on this subject, I am not so sure of myself to say with complete assurance what I think is the absolute truth on this topic. May each of us be convinced in his own heart, but also have patience with the brother, or sister, who differs with us!

## IV. The Lord Jesus helped them preach 16:19-20



Then Jesus was received up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God. The words that begin the Letter to the Hebrews describes in majestic words the act mentioned here.

### *Hebrews 1:1-3*

*1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*

## MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

*After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high ... (Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV).*

They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord helping them. Here we have one of the phrases of the gospel that encourages me the most. Jesus helped them. How good to read that Jesus helped them! In more than one place in the Psalms the psalmist exclaims that God was his help! *1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you! 2 May he send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion (Psalms 20:1-2 ESV)!*

In the creation God sought a helper for the man. He did not find one and made woman (Genesis 2). Eva exclaims, upon giving birth to her first born, that she did it with God's help. (Genesis 4:1) More than once Joshua is called Moses' helper (Exodus 24:13).

John Mark was helper on the first missionary team with Barnabas and Saul, later called Paul (Acts 13:5). Isn't this why we find this emphasis in his gospel? All those whom the Lord calls, not as great preachers, but as helpers, they can be encouraged with the reality that after being the great and divine Preacher for three years, Jesus retired leaving others to preach in his place, and he is helping them. After leaving the team halfway and being rejected by the apostle Paul on the second trip, we see that Mark learned and Paul considered him useful to the ministry. Mark became useful to us, by having written this gospel. We thank God for all those whom God calls to be helpers. Brother, sister, don't despise a call to be a helper!

*To this day I have had the **help** that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass ... (Acts 26:22 ESV).* Paul recognized God's help in his preaching.

Let's depend on the help of God, not on our abilities, nor on our gifts. We use the abilities and we develop the gifts but never, but never, depend on them! Let's depend on the Lord. Let's tell him in prayer that without him we can do nothing.

The Lord confirmed the word with the signs that followed. It is important to have proof of "life". As human beings we not only speak but also act. The gospel is also like this, "it speaks and acts". Paul said in the first chapter of the Letter to the Thessalonians that his gospel did not come to them in word only but in power, conviction, and the Holy Spirit, knowing the testimony of the apostles amongst them. They lived what they preached.

Going beyond the testimonies of dedicated and holy lives let's deal with the topic of the signs for a moment. We know that many signs were done at that time.

The Letter to the Hebrews seems to make very specific mention of the things written here. *3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will (Hebrews 2:3-4 ESV).*

# MARK: OUR PREACHING MANUAL

I am going to leave it with you to continue praying and meditating on this issue. There are good Christians who love the Lord, who have different points of view on this theme. I have, as I said before, my doctrinal preferences, but I prefer to share them personally, not in these pages.



So let's review this short conclusion. The first two scenes tell us that Jesus appeared after his resurrection to real people. These announced the appearances to the 11. They in turn were sent to preach everywhere which they did.

God has blessed his people with this gospel, the shortest one, with its own emphasis and organization. Organized? Yes it is! I hope that this study has encouraged, helped, and organized you to be able to continue studying, preaching and teaching the magnificent good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Creator, the King of kings, and Redeemer of the world, and ... our Helper!

## Questions to aid in the study of Mark 16:9-20

1. What is the key issue dealt with in this short conclusion of this gospel?
2. Why would Jesus appear to others of his followers before appearing to the 11 apostles? What experience would this give the apostles that many others would experience in the future?
3. What did Jesus command the apostles to do? What did they do? Does his command apply to us today?
4. How did the Lord participate in the activity of the apostles? Does he do the same for us today? What other Scriptures would support a positive response to this question? Would Philippians 2:13 an example of this?