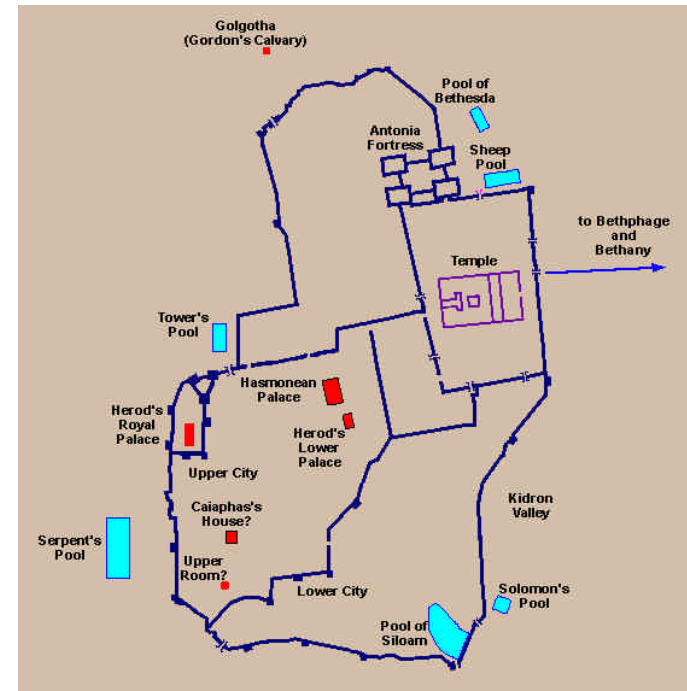


Chapter Sixteen

IT IS FINISHED AND YET HAS JUST BEGUN



WHERE IS JESUS?

1. Outside the Garden Tomb.
2. On a country road.
3. In the Upper Room.
4. In Heaven at God's right hand.

OVERVIEW : We come now to the final chapter in Mark's gospel concerning the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a ride this has been! We have spent a great deal of time traveling around the region known as "The Holy Land" with

Jesus and a band of followers who were struggling to answer the question: Who is this man?

Along the way, we have seen Jesus baptized, heard God speak from heaven twice declaring His love and joy over the Son. We have seen people miraculously healed, raised from the dead and multitudes fed from a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish. We have seen the disciples continually struggle to grasp the teaching that Jesus was entrusting to their care.

The Jewish leaders have plotted virtually from the beginning of Jesus' ministry to arrest and kill Him. He has predicted His death three times in Mark's gospel—and now it has happened. Jesus has died on the cross in the most horrible manner imaginable, but even in His death He has been recognized by a Roman centurion as the Son of God.

Now it is Sunday morning, the third day, when Jesus predicted the Son of Man would be raised from the dead. The story begins with the women closest to Jesus during His life coming to the tomb to anoint His body with spices for final burial. What would they find? Would anyone believe them when they began to tell their story? Was Jesus really alive again? What did it all mean? Who is this man?

Warren Wiersbe writes about the Gospel of Mark: "In a remarkable way, the Gospel of Mark parallels the great "Servant passage" in Philippians 2.

? He came as a Servant (Phil. 2:1-7)—Mark 1-13

4. To whom do you think Jesus is sending you today with the message that He is risen?

5. What will you remember most from your study of Mark that has helped to sharpen your focus on who Jesus is?

FOR YOUR GROUP STUDY:

1. What observations have you made in your study of Mark this week?
2. Describe a situation you could face that would be virtually impossible to believe if you hadn't seen it with your own eyes. How difficult would it be to get someone else to believe it?
3. Jesus commanded the disciples to preach the Good News to all creation. What challenges do you face when trying to fulfill this command in your own life?

- ? He died on a cross (Phil. 2:8)—Mark 14-15
- ? He was exalted to glory (Phil. 2:9)—Mark 16”

Read Mark 16:5.

- ? “A *young man*.” The Greek word here is **neaniskon**. It is the same word used in 14:51 to refer to the young man who ran away when Jesus was arrested. The white robe probably signifies that this was actually an angel.

Read Mark 16:5.

- ? “*were alarmed*.” The Greek word here is **exethambethesan**, which is a compound verb that signifies strong emotion. It most likely means “expresses overwhelming distress at what is highly unusual.”

Read Mark 16:6.

- ? “*He has risen!*” The Greek word here is **egerthe**, which literally means “He was raised.” This indicates that the resurrection was God’s act.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY:

1. Why were the women returning to Jesus’ tomb on Sunday morning?

2. What do you think had been going through their minds since Friday?

3. What did they find when they got there?

4. Who was the young man in the empty tomb and what message did he give to the women?

5. Why do you think the young man singled out Peter to be told to meet Jesus in Galilee?

6. What does this say about Jesus' plans for Peter and the disciples?

7. Why didn't the disciples believe the testimony of the women concerning Jesus?