

Gospel of Mark

Session 3: The Cliffhanger

First Congregational Church of Salt Lake City

November 17, 2023 • Rev. Doug Gray

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome & Introduce myself

Other introductions as necessary

Teaser: If you were going to convince someone the earth is round, how would you do it?

II. The Gospel of Mark (Instant Recap)

A. What's important to Mark in what we've read so far?

1. Who is Jesus?
2. Where does Jesus get His authority?

B. Where are we in the story?

III. Chapter 16 — When Is an Ending Not an Ending?

A. Setting the Scene — Where is the tomb?

Where was Jesus crucified? Golgotha, outside Jerusalem's city walls

Where was Jesus buried? Tomb of Joseph of Arimathea

Traditionally, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher holds both these sites.

Jerusalem — Mountainous area, full of limestone, tombs close together

What was Jesus' tomb like?

B. The Resurrection (Mark)

Shortest version

The women on Sunday

tomb — related to word for remember or memory

young man — teen up to forty (connection to Mark 14:51?)

dressed in a white robe —

sitting on the right side — most tombs of this type had two slabs with a walkway between

alarm — connects with Jesus in the Garden (14:33)

“highly charged emotional state because of a ‘great surprise or perplexity’”

- Mark 9:15 (the crowd on the occasion of the man whose son had a demon that could only be cast out with prayer “help thou mine unbelief”)
- Mark 14:33 (Jesus in the Garden)
- Mark 16:5–6 (the women at the tomb; the angels say don't be)
- Acts 3:11 (the crowd after seeing a lame man healed by Peter and John)

going ahead of you into Galilee — see Mark 14:28

trembling — related to the word from which we get “tremors”; shaking

bewildered — “a state of consternation or profound emotional experience to the point of being beside oneself;” or “a state of being in which consciousness is wholly or partially suspended, freq. associated with divine action” (*BDAG*)

C. The Scribal Addition (starting in verse 9)

IV. The Unsatisfying Ending — for... (Mark 16:1–8)