



Discovering Healing Accounts in the Gospels of Mark

We are praying for you as you continue this journey to discover truths from the healing accounts in the Gospel of Mark. We want to encourage you to take time to pray and ask God to help quiet your mind each day, set aside time to study, and read God's word. Use a personal journal to document your notes and answer the questions in each daily reading.

We've created an acrostic to help us remember some key points to turn this time of study into a time of spiritual growth and personal healing.

Honor God with your commitment of time to study His word.

Examine your heart and pray to invite Him into your study.

Ask God to reveal His truths in the passage.

Listen to what He says and write it down.

Digging deeper into the Gospels will reveal truths that will change the way you view healing, and most important draw you closer to our Heavenly Father. May God bless you as you commit your time and heart to study His word.

HEAL Bible Study: Mark

(21 Day Study)

DAY 1:

Read: As you read and unpack this introduction of Mark, see also supporting scriptures found in: Mark 14:51-52, Acts 12:12, Acts 15:3-9; Acts 15:38; I Peter 5:13.

Introduction: Meeting Mark *(Also known as John or John Mark)*

Mark was not one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. He was one of the many who had heard of Jesus by His reputation as a great healer, and joined the crowd to witness the mighty works of God. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on what we call “Palm Sunday”, Mark undoubtedly found a place among the crowd who welcomed the Savior with palm branches and cloaks laid in the path, as a conquering-hero.

During Passover week, church tradition holds that it was in the “Upper Room” of Mark’s own father’s house that Jesus gathered with His disciples for the last supper, a time of preparation and prayer before Jesus would be arrested in the olive grove known as the Garden of Gethsemane. How did Mark know that there was one young man, wrapped in a sheet, lurking on the side-lines to observe the way by which his hero was ambushed and arrested, and the commotion that followed? Was it Mark who panicked when the soldiers grabbed him, leaving his sheet in their hands, running away naked in fear of his own life?

The next time we see Mark in the Bible, he has joined the Apostle Paul and gone on the very first hazardous trek to spread the Gospel salvation message of

healing, love, and eternal life to the world surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. That is, until, overcome by the dangers of the mission, Mark abandoned it, and left for the familiar safety and comfort of home.

Interestingly, the next time Paul set out to visit the young churches they had planted on the first journey, he refused to trust Mark, the quitter, to accompany him. It was Barnabus who took the aspiring young evangelist under his wing, and gave him the opportunity to prove himself an Apostle.

Ultimately, it was the Apostle Peter that Mark attached himself to. He became like a son to Peter. It was from Peter's sharing of his personal experiences with Jesus that Mark gathered the details of the Master's words and works, ministry and miracles deciding to spread the Good News in writing.

Thus, we have Mark's own Gospel, the first account of Jesus Christ put into writing for us to meet, not only Mark, but his hero-Savior and Lord-Jesus. Through Mark's Gospel, we hear of His power to heal and save those who trust Him as their own saving, healing Lord.

Day 2:

Read Mark 1: 21-28

Sick Among Us

Jesus was in the sea-side town of Capernaum on a Sabbath. He went into the local synagogue and began to preach. Can you imagine Jesus stopping by your church to preach one day? He spoke with authority, not as the teachers of the law had taught. That's because He literally was and still is the Word of God in the flesh. (John 1:1-2).

There was a demon-possessed man in the synagogue that day. Could it be that he had hidden this spiritual affliction? When face to face with the Son of God, the demon could no longer hide for fear of Jesus. Notice how Jesus reacted to this demon-possessed man who was interrupting his teaching. He said, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" And the demon left the man shrieking at that moment. All those attending that day saw Jesus' power to cast out evil spirits.

Questions:

1. Does it surprise you the demon-possessed man was at the synagogue?
2. Did you notice how Jesus cast out the demon? What can we learn from Jesus' approach to ridding this poor soul of the demonic possession?
3. Scriptures say that Jesus taught with authority. Have you ever witnessed someone teaching with authority vs. someone say, just teaching? Do you think it matters who we sit under and by what authority they teach? How so?

Day 3:

Read Mark 1: 29-34 *Gathering at the Door*

Summary/Thoughts:

Jesus was still in Capernaum and headed to the home of Simon (Peter) and Andrew. Peter's mother-in-law was sick, so they brought Jesus to her. Taking her hand, He helped her up and the fever left her. She didn't ask for the healing. Instead, her son-in-law, who personally knew Jesus, brought Jesus to her.

Later that evening, people came to bring their sick loved ones to Jesus. Picture the entire town gathered around the door of Peter and Andrew's tiny house. These people wanted help for their loved ones and crowded the door where they knew Jesus was staying. The account says Jesus healed many who had various diseases and were demon-possessed.

Day 4:

Read Mark 1: 35 - 39

Time with God

Summary/Thoughts:

After a night of non-stop healings in Capernaum, Jesus got up before sunrise to be alone and pray to God. The night before, He had just ministered to the entire town seeking healing for their sick and demon-possessed loved ones.

It's refreshing to see that the Son of God placed a priority on being alone with His Heavenly Father. He had just been serving, helping, listening, healing and caring for people, but now this was His time to refocus and regenerate, and how does He do so? He spends time with God. He too needed a time of refreshing.

His alone time was cut short when His disciples told Him everyone was looking for Him. But Jesus said, "Let's go somewhere else." Although physical healing was part of Jesus' ministry, what did He say was his reason for coming? He had more preaching to do.

Day 5:

Read Mark 1: 40-45

If You Are Willing

Summary/Thoughts:

“If you are willing, you can make me clean.” This is what a man with leprosy said to Jesus. Jesus had compassion for the man, touched him and said, “I am willing.” He healed him right there, giving him instructions to tell no one of his healing but to go to the priests, offer sacrifices for his healing as a testimony to them. Instead, the healed man went around telling everyone his good news.

Would you blame the man for spreading the word?

This account is where we see an immediate healing due to this man’s faith. He believed Jesus could heal him and begged for it. He sought Jesus as the one who could heal him. No matter if Jesus heals immediately or over time, we are to learn from this man’s faith that Jesus is willing!

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus heals some people immediately and others over time?
2. Why do you think Jesus wanted the priests to see this healing?
3. What do you think of the fact that the man essentially went against Jesus' instructions to "not tell this to anyone", and instead spoke freely about it, spreading the news? What does scripture say is the impact or outcome that it had on Jesus?

Day 6:

Read Mark 2: 1 - 12

Caregivers

Summary/Thoughts:

Caring for someone you love who is sick can take its toll on you. The endless doctor visits, hospital stays, worry that your loved one will not get better, etc. can weigh you down. So if you knew there was someone who could heal your loved one, wouldn't you do anything?

This account takes place in Capernaum, late one night, where Jesus had already healed many in the town. Four men planned to bring their paralytic loved one to Jesus but because of the dense crowds, they couldn't get to Him. Desperate to have their loved one healed, they climbed on the roof of the home and took the tiles off to lower him down. They were willing to risk embarrassment, and more importantly, destruction of personal property to get this man before Jesus.

When we read this account closely, look at the role of the men. Their actions made a tremendous impact on Jesus. It wasn't the actions of the man who was paralyzed, but the faith of his friends. Jesus then said something we don't want to miss. Instead of telling the man to walk, He said to the paralytic man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Telling him his sins were forgiven isn't exactly what the man was expecting. As a matter of fact, the teachers of the law thought Jesus was blaspheming God. Jesus then asked them why were they thinking such things? He questioned which was easier to understand: "Your sins are forgiven, or take up your mat and walk?"

Jesus turned to the paralytic man and spoke to him directly with instructions to get up, carry your mat and go home. The dedication and faith that Jesus could

Day 7:

Read Mark 3: 1 - 6

Standing Up

Summary/Thoughts:

Jesus was in a synagogue on the Sabbath. Worshipping there that day was a man with a shriveled hand. Seeing the man, Jesus said to him, “Stand up in front of everyone.” Note that key statement. Jesus didn’t pull this guy over to the side and quietly heal his hand. No, He wanted everyone, including His critics, to see Him heal this man on the Sabbath.

The man had to stand up in front of everyone. His deformity was put on full display. If he had been hiding this under a cloak, he could not do it anymore. By standing up and being obedient, his need was front stage for everyone to soon see a healing. He didn’t know what Jesus was going to do. He didn’t refuse due to embarrassment. He simply obeyed giving his full attention to the Healer, and Jesus healed him on the spot.

Questions:

1. Have you ever considered that yours or a loved one's illness might be an opportunity to show others the glory of God?
2. Why do you think Jesus wanted him to stand up in front of everyone?
3. Obedience played a part in this man's healing. What did you learn from this man?

Day 8:

Read Mark 3: 7 - 12

Crowding Jesus

Summary/Thoughts:

Have you ever stood in line at a Black Friday sale waiting with hundreds of people until they opened the doors? It can be a free for all as people crowd, push and run for great deals. In today's account, Jesus is the reason everyone flocked to the Galilee region. People heard of his healing power and they wanted it for themselves.

It says in verse 10, "For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him." There were so many people, Jesus had his disciples get a small boat, to keep the people from crowding him.

We too can seek Jesus with as much fervor as these people did. They made seeking Him their priority over schedules, work, etc. They looked to Him for their ultimate healing and so can we today.

Questions:

1. When was the last time you were with others crowding in to see or experience something? What was happening around you?
2. Have you ever desperately sought God for something, sacrificing your comfort in doing so?
3. Why do you think Jesus didn't want the people crowding Him? Was it about His comfort, or other's access?

Day 9:

Read Mark 5: 1 - 20 *Spiritually Tormented*

Summary/Thoughts:

Today's account features a man possessed by many demons. He was known by the townspeople and yet he lived in isolation among the tombs. He is described as a man who has often been bound and chained but unable to be subdued due to his supernatural strength. His extreme mental anguish and agony is on full display as he cried out day and night, cutting himself in pain.

One day, Jesus was nearby and the tormented man approached him. Jesus said to the demon possessing the man, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" The demon then cried out: "What is it that you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me." The demonic spirits knew the power of Jesus to rid this man of his chains of torment. Commanding the spirits to leave him, Jesus sent the evil spirits into a herd of about 2000 pigs, driven into a lake and drowned. What happened to the man next? We see him sitting, dressed, and in his right mind.

Today, the enemy still prowls like a lion seeking to devour and destroy. (1Peter 5:8) He isolates individuals from friends and family via depression, addictions, sin, shame, whispering lies and robbing people of their sound mind and peace. The devil and his demons have limited reign here on earth, but they can certainly wreak havoc on the lives of others.

Notice what Jesus said to the man when it was time for Jesus to leave. Instead of allowing this man to join Him on the boat, Jesus told the man: "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how

He has had mercy on you.” This man was no longer with his family, and most likely either retreated himself to the tombs or was driven away into isolation from them. Can you imagine the surprise when he knocked on their door? Their prodigal son was home telling of a healing encounter with the Son of God!

Questions:

1. Did reading today's passage impact your mindset about what a demon-possessed man or woman may look like? What are the characteristics and the references in the passages about this man's demonic possession?
2. Once Jesus healed the man, he was freed of his suffering - his state-of-mind, characteristics and outward appearance changed. Do you think he wanted to leave Jesus' side? Why do you think Jesus told him to go home to his family?
3. At the Cross, Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities of this world, triumphing over them (See Colossians 2:15). Believers cannot be possessed by a demon; however, the enemy is still alive and active. Read 1 Peter 5:8. What does scripture tell us to do to stand firm against the enemy?

Day 10:

Read Mark 5: 21 - 24; 35 - 43

Just Believe

Summary/Thoughts:

Jairus is the principal character in this account. He was a synagogue ruler, so when his little daughter was deathly ill, ignoring what others might say, he fell at the feet of Jesus pleading for her healing. Can you relate? He was laser focused on one thing - he wanted his daughter to live.

While in the crowd, some men told him that his daughter had just died. Upon hearing this terrible news, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." Jesus could say this because He had the power to raise the dead. And even though his daughter was dead, Jairus believed Jesus and took him to his home to see his daughter.

By outward appearances she was dead. Mourners were in the house wailing and grieving her loss, but they had no clue that Jesus was about to change everything. He said, "The child is not dead but asleep." Putting out the mourners, Jesus gathered her parents together and went into the room. Taking her by the hand, he speaks to the little girl and says: "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" Immediately, she stood up and began to walk around. Completely astonished, we can only imagine those flute playing mourners were now playing a new tune!

Day 11:

Read Mark 5: 24 - 34 *Freed From Suffering*

Summary/Thoughts:

This passage is nestled right in the middle of the account of Jairus daughter. Jesus was on his way to Jairus house when the woman with the bleeding problem entered the picture. If you or a loved one has suffered a long time with a chronic illness or disease, then you can relate to the woman in this account. She had suffered 12 years with a bleeding disorder. It's very likely, due to Jewish law, her condition made her ceremoniously unclean and therefore ostracized her from society.

This woman heard Jesus was in town so she sought him out. We see the extent of her long-term suffering in verse 26: "She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse."

Word had gotten around town about Jesus, so having nothing to lose, she joined the crowds pushing against him, all seeking healing. Believing he had the power to heal her, she felt all she needed to do was reach out and touch his clothes. Just touching the hem of his garment would be enough in her eyes. So when she reached out and touched his cloak, she immediately felt in her body that she was healed.

But she wasn't the only one that felt that touch. Jesus felt it as well, and describes it as "power had gone out from him". Confusing his disciples due to the multitude pushing up against him, Jesus asked who had touched him. Trembling and fearful, she told the whole truth.

That act of faith is what got this response from Jesus, “Daughter your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” And she did.

Questions:

1. This woman saw many doctors and spent all of her money to no avail. Why do you think she still sought Jesus after so many disappointments?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked who touched Him?
3. What can you learn from this woman’s faith which led to her healing?

Day 12:

Read Mark 6: 7 - 12

The 12 disciples go out healing people

Summary/Thoughts:

Jesus gathered His 12 disciples, paired them off two by two, and gave them authority over evil spirits. They were to take nothing with them but a staff. Interesting that a staff is the primary tool of a shepherd. It was used to protect sheep, direct them, and even yank them by the neck if they were going in the wrong direction.

These 12 men were to go out preaching repentance, driving out evil spirits and healing people. They also anointed many sick people with oil, healing them. Anointing with oil is another shepherd's tool. Shepherds would pour oil on sheep's heads to relieve them of nasal flies that would cause great aggravation and inflammation. The oil was a healing salve for the sheep. King David even wrote about this practice in the Shepherd's Psalm 23. "You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Questions:

1. Jesus gave His disciples authority over evil spirits. Why do you think He did that?
2. Why do you think the disciples were to only take a staff with them?
3. What does the sheep/shepherd analogy mean to you? Read Psalm 23 about Jesus our Great Shepherd.

Day 13:

Read Mark 6: 53-56

Running to Jesus

Summary/Thoughts:

Picture Abraham Lincoln in your mind. He had a long face, usually with a beard, and a weary look from the wages of leading a country at war. You and I have never met Honest Abe, but we recognize his face from pictures, drawings and statues of him.

Now put yourself in the days of Jesus. There were no magazines, photos, nor social media apps to feature the likes of Jesus, yet in this account, people recognized Jesus. How would they know what he looked like unless He had done some crazy cool stuff and word was getting out quickly? That's exactly what was going on in this story as Jesus arrived with his disciples and anchored their boats. People immediately recognized him and ran to get their sick loved ones in the hopes that He might cure them. They went so far as to put them on mats and run to the marketplace to get them before Jesus. There was no cell phone to alert them when Jesus was coming. They waited with great expectation for Jesus.

Have you ever carried a grown adult around? That can't be an easy task. It's not like they could put the person in a car and rush over. They literally carried them from all over the region, not knowing if He'd still be there. They believed that if they only touched the edge of His cloak He would still heal them.

So when they heard stories in the marketplaces, around the town wells, and synagogues of this guy Jesus who had actually healed people, you can bet they got a detailed description of him so they would never miss an opportunity if He was in their midst. Wouldn't you do the same?

Summary/Thoughts:

Have you ever gone home one day and just wanted time alone? No distractions. No work. No one needing you. Just quiet time. In this account, Jesus was in that mode. He was in a house with His disciples. The text says that He did not want anyone to know it, yet He could not keep his presence secret.

Barging into the home comes a woman whose little daughter was demon-possessed. It may seem rude that she interrupted Jesus' personal time with His disciples. She didn't care because she was a mother desperate to see her child healed. This interruption is a possible explanation for Jesus saying, "First let the children eat all they want for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs. He was the Bread of Life and was having time alone with His disciples. This time alone was a priority, yet the woman's response to his rebuke showed her great faith.

"Yes Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's bread." She was willing to get just a crumb from Jesus because she believed a small crumb of His power could heal her daughter. Jesus rewarded her faith by healing her daughter.

Day 15:

Read Mark 7:31-36

Jesus heals the deaf man

Summary/Thoughts:

Immediately following Jesus respite in Tyre, He went into Decapolis where some people brought to him a man who was deaf and mute and begged for him to place his hands on the man. Look closely at what Jesus does next. It's actually quite unconventional.

The people asked Jesus to place His hands upon the man. Jesus went one step further. He leads the man away from the crowd, puts his fingers into the man's ears and spits and touches the man's mouth, and with a deep sigh said to the man: "Be opened."

The man's ears were opened and he began to speak plainly. Again, Jesus tells them not to tell anyone what happened. Word continues to spread and people were overwhelmed with amazement exclaiming that Jesus has done everything well, making deaf hear and mute speak.

Questions:

1. What did the people ask of Jesus when they brought the man to him?
2. What are your thoughts about why Jesus would put his fingers in the man's ears and spit and touch his tongue?
3. We read here again Jesus not wanting others to know what He was doing. What do you think you would do if you were in their situation?

Day 16:

Read Mark 8: 11 - 21

Forgetting God's Past Provisions

Summary/Thoughts:

Have you ever gotten in the car and realized once on your way that you had forgotten something? Not a good feeling. Today's account is not an actual healing, but it certainly has a principle to remember when you are on your healing journey. The principle is to never forget God's past provisions on your behalf.

Here's a little backstory into this account. Jesus and his disciples had just fed 4000+ men, women and children with just seven loaves of bread. Don't get this confused with the story of the feeding of the 5000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. That was an account before this one. This was the second time Jesus had performed a miracle and fed such a huge crowd.

Now, Jesus and the disciples are sailing in a boat and the disciples had forgotten to bring bread with them for the trip. They only had one loaf in the boat. Instead of remembering God's provision from the very recent past, they completely forgot about the miracle they had just seen and experienced first hand. Talk about miracle amnesia. Jesus himself had to remind them of the past two miracles concerning bread and all the leftovers they gathered.

Just like us, the disciples have seen God do amazing things in their lives, but can easily forget these past provisions and get caught up in the current circumstances. You may not have seen a huge miracle as they did, but how often do we run to God, fearful He won't come through with our problem. The reality is He's right there with us, waiting for us to put our trust in Him.

Questions:

1. Jesus said to the disciples when they were talking about bread, “Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?” What do you think Jesus felt like upon seeing they still didn’t clue in to who He was?
2. Have you forgotten some of God’s victories or provisions on your behalf?
3. What are ways you can recall His provisions?

Activity: Take the time to recall and write down times when God came through for you. Jot down a word that will remind you of that memory or victory and place it somewhere where you’ll see it daily as a reminder of His faithfulness.

Day 17:

Read Mark 8: 22-26

Second time's a charm

Summary/Thoughts:

We find Jesus visiting the village of Bethsaida in this account. Some people brought a blind man to him and they begged Jesus to touch the man. Instead of healing the man right there on the spot, Jesus took him by the hand and, likened to the account of the deaf man in Mark 7:31-36, Jesus led him away from the crowds.

Once outside the village, Jesus spit on the man's eyes, and put his hands on him. Jesus asked him what he saw and the man replied, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." So this tells us it wasn't an immediate, all at once healing. Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes and then his eyes were opened and he saw clearly.

This second time his sight was completely restored -- no longer did he have vision blurry, but 20/20. Isn't it interesting how the healing took place in stages. Do you think Jesus could have healed the man all at once? Once the man was healed completely, Jesus instructed him to not go into the village. Wonder why?

Day 18:

Read Mark 9: 14-29

If you can

Summary/Thoughts:

Put yourself in the shoes of the father in this story. For years, he saw his son tormented by an evil spirit that caused the boy to have convulsions, suicidal tendencies and be mute. The boy could not even verbalize the agony he was going through. This desperate father sought the help of the disciples to rid his son of this demon, yet the disciples could not drive out the spirit. Then, Jesus came on the scene.

The man explained his son's dire situation and how he had already reached out to the disciples for help, but to no avail. Then he said something many of us have found ourselves saying, "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Look at Jesus' response, "If you can?" Wow! Can you imagine Jesus saying that to you? Jesus followed up that question by saying, "Everything is possible for him who believes." Everything. Belief is key to the possible.

The man was honest with Jesus and said, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Do you find yourself in his shoes? Jesus, if you can heal my cancer...Jesus if you can heal my son... Jesus, if you can heal my marriage. If you can... fill in the blank.

Jesus commanded the spirit to come out of the man's son. Do you think his prayer asking for help with his unbelief was answered? We can all learn from the compassion of Jesus to work with us and heal us despite our own unbelief.

Questions:

Day 19:

Read Mark 10: 46-52

Throwing His Cloak Aside

Summary/Thoughts:

Blind begger Bartimaeus sat day in and day out by his cloak on the roadside of Jericho begging for food or money. This was his life. Bartimaeus heard Jesus was walking by and instead of quietly begging, he yelled loudly for Jesus. He didn't care that others were trying to shush him. Because of his loud calling, Jesus said, "Call him." Reminds me of the saying: *The squeaky wheel gets oiled*. Good ol' Bart threw his cloak aside, the item that most likely identified him as a begger, and scrambled onto his feet to move toward the voice of Jesus.

Imagine Jesus asking you, "What do you want me to do for you?" Isn't that the million dollar question we'd all love Jesus to ask us? Bartimaeus answered in a very straight-forward manner, "I want to see." And Jesus' response was, "Go. Your faith has healed you." Suddenly, he could see. The man, Jesus, had given him exactly what he asked for and more, including freedom from a life of relying on others. His desire after -- to follow Jesus.

Questions:

1. Is there a metaphorical “cloak” in your life, the daily reminder of your illness or condition?
2. What would you say to Jesus if he asked you, “What do you want me to do for you?”
3. Bartimaeus had to get up and move toward Jesus’ voice. Has Jesus called out to you for something and is awaiting your response?

Day 20:

Read Mark 15: 21 - 16: 8; Psalm 22

Jesus is resurrected

Summary/Thoughts:

One can't read the resurrection story without first seeing how Jesus suffered on the cross for the sins of all humanity - you, me, everyone. This innocent man took on the sins of the world so that you and I could be forgiven of our sins and reconciled with God. His blood poured out for you and me bridges that gap to God that sin caused. Take a moment to really experience the who, what, why, when and how of the crucifixion before you get to the resurrection part. It's a moment in time that literally changed history and has eternal consequences. Don't miss a detail!

Scripture tells us that during the crucifixion, there comes a time of great darkness over the land and Jesus cries out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Jesus was quoting Psalm 22, a prophecy of his crucifixion, describing His experience and asserting the victory of God over death. He knew this was the fulfillment of God's plan. At that very moment, Jesus was experiencing the horror of separation from His heavenly father because His father could not look on sin, the sin that Jesus was bearing on our behalf. When we place our faith and trust in Him, we can know that He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. " *Psalm 103:12* We will never be separated or forsaken by God.

After his death, Jesus' body was quickly taken and put in a garden tomb as the Sabbath was approaching and they could not leave a dead body outside. Due to the haste of taking his body down, it wasn't properly prepared, so that's why on

Resurrection Day, the two Marys, and Salome were headed to visit the tomb to prepare Jesus body with spices. They came to the tomb in obedience to do what was right, wondering about the obstacles that they may face. Did you catch in the account what the women were worried about? They asked each other: “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” Scripture tells us, the obstacle was never a barrier for God.

Place yourself in the sandals of the women as they arrived to an empty tomb. The stone had been rolled away. As they entered, an angel sitting there, told them “He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter.”

The angel pointed out “and Peter”. Do you think God knew Peter needed extra encouragement that even in spite of his mistakes of denying Jesus during his arrest, he was still one of them! Do you think we sometimes need a reminder of who we are in Christ, in spite of what we think? Remember, Peter had just betrayed Jesus three times before he was crucified. What a beautiful promise that: *Nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God revealed to us in Christ.* (Romans 8:39) The women came to the tomb preparing for death, but ran out of the tomb to share a message with the world: He is alive!

Questions:

1. How does that make you feel to know that Jesus also experienced a separation from God? Does that make you identify with Him more?
2. What does that mean to you that the angel asked the women to tell “the disciples and Peter”? What does that say about God’s compassion and forgiveness?
3. Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross specifically for you and your sins? Have you asked him to forgive you of your sins? If you haven’t asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life and to forgive your sins, we want to invite you to do that now.

Pray this simple prayer out loud and in your heart:

“Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe you died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust you as my Lord and Savior. Please help me to surrender to your will daily. In Jesus name, Amen.” Once you have prayed this prayer, please tell someone. If you would like to reach out to us at HealingStrong, we will pray with you and celebrate your new life in Christ. You can email us at: prayerrequest@healingstrong.org.

Day 21:

Read Mark 16: 15-18
To those who believe

Summary/Thoughts:

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and gave the Great Commission. “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” This was not just meant for the disciples. It was meant for future believers like you and me. Jesus said, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

What tells us that this commission is for you and for me is the word “they”. Jesus did not say “you” when He was giving the Great Commission. He was talking about you and me. As believers in Christ, God has given us the ability, through His Son, to place our hands on sick people and they will get well. When we believe upon Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, His Holy Spirit lives in us and we have the very power that raised Jesus from the dead, that healed the blind and sick, and drove out demons, living in us. The disconnect comes when people misinterpret this power of healing as an individual declaration or proclamation. Jesus is the ultimate Healer and He does so for one purpose only...to bring glory to God our Father. Do we know the Father’s will? We do not; however, His word gives us an idea of glorious riches and promises He supplies.

The power to heal is in the name of Jesus. It is not by our might or will at all. Healing is to bring ultimate glory to God. Each healing account we have read in Mark was a time when a person was healed -- and what followed? Jesus got the glory.

This study was originally published as part of the H.E.A.L. Bible Study, an initiative of HealingStrong. For more information about HealingStrong and how you can connect with local groups in your area, please go to:

www.healingstrong.org

H Honor God with your commitment of time to study His word.	E Examine your heart and pray to invite Him into your study.	A Ask God to reveal His truths in the passage.	L Listen to what he says and write it down.
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Meet Our H.E.A.L. Team



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HealingStrong is a non-profit 501c3 organization that empowers HealingStrong Groups in communities across the world. Our desire is to see people walking in wholeness - body, soul and spirit. Our groups are always free to the public and HEAL Bible Study is part of the initiative to teach people the message of hope in healing through Jesus and the power of His Word. More than 250 people a day are downloading these Bible studies on the Bible App or Bible.com, and HEAL is being offered as part of the HealingStrong@Home curriculum.

Everything we do is made possible by your prayers and gifts, and we want to thank you personally for sharing your love of the Lord so that others can know Him, too.

We are thankful for all He has done and hopeful for all He will do. To God be the glory!

God works through the generous gifts of people like you who would like to contribute to the ongoing mission and vision of the organization. Please consider a tax-deductible donation or join our monthly membership for as little as \$5 per month:

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