



DATE: April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday)
SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8
TITLE: Worst. Ending. Ever.

The Gospel of Mark ends very abruptly. In fact, it feels too abrupt. The story ends with the women finding the empty tomb, talking to a mysterious “young man” dressed in white, and then the NRSV says, “So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid .”

That’s it. That’s the end of the story. Some later scribes couldn’t live with that ending, so they added verses 9-21, but most Bible scholars agree that was added after the original author of Mark finished writing his story.

What are we supposed to do with an ending like that? Well, there is a clue in the Greek that we don’t see in English. The original text ends with the Greek preposition “gar,” which can be translated to “for.”

In other words, the last sentence of the Gospel could be “they said nothing to anyone. They were afraid for.” So how is that helpful? The sentence seems to end without finishing. My English teacher taught me to never end a sentence with a preposition. What are we to do?

We must remember the young man’s words, “Go back to Galilee.” In other words,

“go back to the beginning.” Go back to where it all began.

For us to complete the Gospel of Mark, we must go back to the beginning. The first sentence of Mark is “The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

So if we take the last sentence, go back to the beginning, and start again we get. “They were afraid for this is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

The Gospel of Mark has no ending. It is simply a reminder to back to the story. You won’t find Jesus at a tomb. You will find him by rereading the story.

In fact, You will find Jesus by living the story. We find the risen Christ by following his way. We write the ending with our lives. We write the ending with our faith, prayers, worship, kindness, service, and love.

There is no ending to the Good News. We LIVE the Good News. And yes, there is some fear involved. Following Christ can be scary sometimes. The world can be scary sometimes, but if we remain faithful, go back to the story of Jesus, and live our lives as faithful disciples, the Risen Christ will meet us along The Way.

In fact, You will find Jesus by living the story. We find the risen Christ by following his way. We write the ending with our lives. We write the ending with our faith, prayers, worship, kindness, service, and love.