

Did you ever watch a movie whose ending threw you a curve ball – *the Sixth Sense*, *Star Wars (ESB)* ... I'm sure those reading Mark's gospel in the first and second century of the church also felt like Mark had thrown them a curve ball by ending his gospel with [v8](#) ... As said last week, it is widely accepted that Mark intentionally ended his gospel at this point, and that later manuscripts of the gospel began to include [vs9-20](#) in large part to deal with Mark's awkward ending ... It is possible that the last page of Mark's gospel got separated and lost from the other pages; but I am more inclined to believe that [vs8](#) is the end that Mark wanted to leave us with

- Many of the verses we read this morning restate what Matthew, Luke, and John, say in their book; yet, some verses make statements that are awkward in of themselves, not seen in other places ... This added ending includes word choices not used by Mark in other chapters, nor in the style of writing seen throughout Mark ... Look at [vs16:14](#) – emphasis in which this verse is written is found nowhere in the gospels between Jesus and His disciples ... Jesus comes at the disciples in the same manner in which the mockers come at Him on the cross, and in which He called out His hometown of Nazareth for not believing in Him ... The disciples struggled with their faith; it blew their minds that Jesus had in fact risen from the dead ... But they did not possess rebellious unbelief
- [Vs17-18](#) – Jesus seems to guarantee that believers will not be harmed if they encounter snakes or drink poison, and that they will always be successful in driving out demons, healing people, and speaking in tongues ... Jesus never gives such guarantees, nor do other NT authors ... However, and this is important to understand, the Holy Spirit does manifest His power in us and through us – demons can be driven out and they are, healings can occur and they do, the gift of tongues is real and still available today, and there are times where we are protected from things that mean us harm and death
- These things do not have to be guaranteed in order for them to be true and possible within the life of a Christian ... Through the Holy Spirit, God will work in us and through us, and He will use the gifting that He gives us, but there is no guarantee that we will always be successful or that the gift will come every time at our will ... This is not always easy for us to accept, because we like to be right, and we don't like to fail nor do we like to look foolish ... We may have to change how we view success – whose standard are we measuring by, our own or God? ... Were disciples of Jesus successful in their ministries because of the end result or because of their willingness to obey? (Missionary) ... [1Cor3:6-9](#) ... Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God brought the end result ... Paul was successful because of his willingness to plant ... Apollos was successful because of his willingness to water ... You're successful because you allow God to work through you, even in times that seem crazy and uncomfortable on the surface ... Sometimes we're going to do things incorrectly and mess up ... God will not be disappointed ... He looks for willing obedience
- [Vs20](#) – the disciples preached the gospel, as the Lord empowered and enabled them, and then He confirmed their message through signs and wonders that He worked through them ... The disciples were successful only because of Jesus, who worked in them and through them, by the Holy Spirit ... Therefore, experiencing their success is not beyond us – the same Jesus who lived in them, lives in us, by the same Holy Spirit! ... Go and tell was the call of the 1st century disciples, just as it is the call of every 21st century disciple ... Brooks, “Mark challenged his readers to assume the responsibility of telling the good news to everyone” ... Mark ends with discipleship, a common theme

As Jesus was persistent in being about His Father's business, doing what He saw His Father doing, and saying what He heard the Father saying, so we too need to be about our Father's business, joining Him in what He is doing, where He is going, by the power of the Holy Spirit ... Because as Jesus said, Jo20:21 ... Sends us to do what – Mat28:19-20 ... The heart of Jesus, the purpose of His commissioning, is to make disciples of Himself (restoring the image of God within them) from every people group ... Jesus commands His Jewish disciples to think beyond themselves and to go into multi-ethnic places with the gospel ... The Great Commission is not about Christianizing nations or states or towns, but about taking the gospel to all people, in all cultures, that exist within towns, states, and nations ... Not a political movement, but a gospel movement

We all want Jesus to return, correct? ... He tells us when He'll return – Mat24:14, “This good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” ... I take this literally ... Not only are we to pass on this gospel of salvation, but we are to also send out individuals, couples, and groups, from our church, to places that still need to hear about Jesus ... Why – because there remains about 2 billion people who have no access to what you and I have access to every day: Jesus ... More people live in Frontier people groups than in North, Central, South America, Western Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Australia and Oceania combined ... There are 17,400 people groups – 7,000 of them are unreached; 5,000 of the unreached are known as Frontier people groups ... Only 1% of missionaries go to FPGs

- **Imagine** living in a country or an area that has zero access to a church, to a Bible, to a Christian radio station or website ... You have no idea who Jesus is; to you, God is one of many gods whom you have been brought up to know ... The gods that you serve, you do so in order to make them happy; yet, no matter what you do, they are never happy enough ... There's always some law to follow, some sacrifice to make, some god you've disappointed ... And when you die, you will spend eternity from the very God who made you to know Him
- Despite what some churches teach, what some Christians believe, and what the world wants to be true, not every person will be saved from the fires of hell ... Universalism – the belief that in the end God will save everyone, is heresy ... If that's the case, then Christ died in vain ... No, the way to eternal life with God is only through Jesus Christ ... Rom10:13-15 ... Rom1:19-20 ... Here's the thing, neither is the Church excused in our delay of fulfilling our missional mandate from the One who sent someone to share the gospel with us
- **McQuilkin**, “Worse than being trapped and not knowing the way out is to be lost and not even know it, for then one does not look for salvation, recognize it when it comes, nor accept it when it is offered. That's being lost ... The greatest mystery is why those who are charged with rescuing the lost have spent 2,000 years doing other things, good things perhaps, but have failed to send and be sent until all have heard the liberating word of life in Christ Jesus. The lost condition of human beings breaks the Father's heart. What does it do to ours?”
- **VIDEO** ... **Perspective** – US: 1 nation, 522 people groups, 98 unreached – 15 million people (4.5% of pop) ... In Ohio, the majority of unreached people live in our 3 biggest cities ... PG view of the World (**SLIDE**)
- This is not in any way meant to say that missionary work in other parts of the world is useless ... Rather, this is to draw our attention to those places that do not have adequate missionaries, if any at all ... The church, our church, is called to make disciples of all people, in all cultures, no matter where we live, and no matter if we carry an official title of missionary ... Every Christian, every follower of Jesus, is SENT by Jesus ... As you go about your daily life – at home, at work, with friends, on the football field, hanging out with your neighbors, we are to invest in the lives of others by inviting them into our own, and telling them / showing them how Jesus has changed your life forever
- My prayer and hope for Grace Missionary, is that we begin to be such people who are sent by Jesus and who obey what He has called us to do, and that one day we can become a place where missionaries are raised up and sent out to the ends of the earth ... Explain prayer booklet