

The Way Forward: Following the Risen King
On the Way: A Journey Through the Gospel of Mark
Gospel of Mark
August 30, 2026
Mark 16:15-20

Sermon Points:

I. The Context of the Cross: Good News vs. Striving

- **The Power of Context:** The value of a gift is determined by the recipient's context. To understand why the Cross is Good News, we must understand our spiritual need.
- **The Dead End of Human Performance:** Modern society is built on proving our worth through achievements, wealth, and status. However, this endless striving can never satisfy our deepest longings.
- **The Sufficiency of Jesus:** Christ's death on the Cross paid for our sins and reconciled us to God, transforming us from enemies into children of God.
- **A New Identity:** We are no longer defined by our failures or performance.
 - *Scripture: 2 Cor 5:17 – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

II. The Resource for the Journey: The Holy Spirit

- **Inner Transformation:** Though our physical environment, obligations, and limitations remain unchanged, we are made different because we are equipped with the power of God.
- **A Living Temple:** The Holy Spirit resides inside believers, removing our fear and ensuring we never walk alone.
 - *Scripture: 1 Cor 6:19 – "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;"*

III. The Mission of the Risen King

- **The Everyday Commission (Mark 16:15-20):** Preaching the Gospel is an active command to be lived out naturally wherever we go—in our families, workplaces, and communities. We are called to carry the living "aroma of Jesus".
- **A Collective Calling:** This mission cannot be done in isolation; it must be lived out in the messiness of authentic, supportive church community.
- **Hope in the Dark Night:** Even in deep suffering, injustice, and uncertainty, we have hope because Jesus experienced the ultimate isolation on the Cross so that we would never have to walk through darkness alone.

- **Delegated Authority:** As ambassadors of the Risen King, we represent His sovereignty in everything we say and do, offering words of life and loving hands to those in need.

IV. Personal Inventory & Application

Believers are challenged to reflect on four vital diagnostic questions:

1. *Where are you growing in your likeness and resemblance to Jesus?*
 2. *Are His words deeply planted in your heart?*
 3. *Are you actively stepping out of your comfort zone to love and serve others?*
 4. *How can you proactively determine to walk forward to follow King Jesus?*
-

Personal Notes
