

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

Jesus Now and Forever

Mark 16:14-20

Pastor Ben Hall – Saanich Baptist Church

June 21st 2026



“FOLLOW” Sermon Series Review:

1. The gospel is not merely the beginning of discipleship. It is the whole of discipleship.
2. Jesus is both the object of our faith and the power of our transformation
3. The gospel forms a people who grow together and live on mission together.
4. The future belongs to Jesus, so the present belongs to faithful discipleship.
5. The risen, ascended, and reigning Jesus is forming His disciples until He returns

Mark 16:14-20 “...[19] ***So the Lord Jesus, after speaking to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.***”

Three movements:

1. **He SPOKE** – His last act before ascending is INSTRUCTION. His authority remains MEDIATED by His word.
2. **He was TAKEN up** - This is the FATHER’S action Jesus is not portrayed as INDEPENDENTLY ascending.
3. **He SAT down** - The work of atonement is finished. The reign of the King begins publicly.

Q: Where is Jesus now? ***The Right Hand of God***

- **Royal Authority and COSMIC Dominion** - The right-hand position signifies authority and power.
- **PRIESTLY Intercession** - Beyond kingship, the right-hand position carries priestly significance.
- **ESCHATOLOGICAL Promise and PRESENT Reality** - The right-hand position bridges present and future.

Theological IMPLICATIONS:

- **He REIGNS over Heaven and Earth**- ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matthew 28:18)***
- **He extends His RULE through His CHURCH** - ***“He gave Him as head over all things to the church.” (Ephesians 1:22)***

Q: What Does Jesus Look Like Now? - Not less human. More glorious.

- HUMAN — The scars remain.
- DIVINE - King, Judge, Warrior, Bridegroom, Shepherd, Lord of lords.

The ASCENSION means that disciples follow a living King who is presently REIGNING over history, INTERCEDING for His people, EMPOWERING His Church by His Spirit, and DIRECTING all things toward the public revelation of His kingdom.

Verse 20 - “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by accompanying signs.”

Q: What is Jesus doing now?

- He INTERCEDES - ***“He always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)***
- He SENDS the Spirit – at Pentecost ***“Exalted at the right hand of God... He has poured out this.” (Acts 2:33)***

Date: June 21st, 2026

Series: Follow

Title: Jesus Now and Forever

Primary Passage: Mark 16:14-20

Secondary Passage: Rev. 19:11-16

Big Question: What is Jesus doing now?

Big Idea: The ASCENSION means that disciples follow a living King who is presently REIGNING over history, INTERCEDING for His people, EMPOWERING His Church by His Spirit, and DIRECTING all things toward the public revelation of His kingdom.

Keywords: Disciple, Discipleship, Ascension, Right Hand, Sit, King Priest, Name, Intercede, Empower, Receive.

Going Deeper Discussion Questions

1. Looking back over the Follow series, what has most changed or challenged your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus? Which truth or passage has stayed with you? How has your understanding of discipleship become more gospel-centered?
2. Jesus' final earthly act was to speak to His disciples before being taken up and seated at the Father's right hand. What does this sequence teach us about where Christ's authority is exercised today? Why is it significant that His reign is still mediated through His Word? How does His ascension strengthen rather than weaken His presence with His people?
3. The New Testament presents Jesus as reigning over history, interceding for His people, empowering His Church by the Spirit, and directing history toward His Kingdom. Which of these realities do you most need to remember right now. Why? What circumstances make this truth especially meaningful or difficult to believe?
4. Throughout Mark, we have seen that the gospel is not simply how we begin the Christian life. It is how we continue growing. Where are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of the reigning Christ? How does knowing that Jesus is actively working *for* you and *with* you reshape that struggle?
5. Mark concludes by saying, ***"They went out... while the Lord worked with them" (16:20)***. What might faithful discipleship look like this week if you genuinely believed that Jesus is already at work ahead of you? Is there a conversation, relationship, act of service, or step of obedience He may be inviting you into?
6. As you reflect on your own discipleship what is one way you sense Jesus continuing to form you as His disciple? Is there one habit to begin, one attitude to surrender, one relationship to invest in, or one area where Christ is inviting deeper trust? How can this group encourage and pray for you as you take that next step?
7. Finish with prayer, thanking Jesus that He is alive, reigning, and at work today. Ask Him to deepen your trust in His presence, strengthen your obedience, and empower you by His Spirit to faithfully follow Him until He returns.