

56- Go to the World

Mark 16:14-20

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We began a journey through Mark 56 sessions ago as we have been learning to serve by the example of the Servant. We see now in the end that we are called to go tell the world the good news of the gospel, we are called to serve.

We have seen the life of Jesus and His example of servanthood. We saw His death and burial and then the resurrection.

I- Go Preach:

Jesus is recorded to have been seen in His resurrected body by at least 500-600 people. Still the ones that would make a difference were the disciples, now numbered 11 because Judas is dead.

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Jesus chastises them for not believing the reports and tells them to go preach the gospel to all creatures, all men of all colors, all races, all nations.

II- The Promises:

I concede that here in the Gospel of Mark are some hard passages. Some that are claimed to have come in that should not be there. However do not get bogged down in the nuances of these but look at the overall picture of faith leads to life.

Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents;*

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Now I do not have any plans to drink poison, handle snakes nor any of these so called acts of faith by some. I however will believe that Jesus died for my sins and put them away forever giving me life. I trust you have done this as well.

III- Ascended:

The last part of Mark we are told that Jesus ascended back into heaven. *Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

Within these verses is a precious promise that Jesus is on the right hand of the Father. We see from a passage in Romans that He has a purpose being there. *Romans 8:33-34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

We also see a challenge to us as well to again go and tell because the disciples did that very thing. Let take a deeper look into the resurrection and the fact that Jesus is alive and calling us to serve Him.

IV- Where Do We Go From Here?

How does the fact of the resurrection of Christ affect us as God's children? *1 Pet 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to this abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

As we have previously stated the resurrection of Christ is the capstone of Christian faith. We in fact have nothing to believe in if Christ be not raised. Notice with me *1 Corinthians 15:12-19* which reveals several horrible things that are facts if there is no resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

A- All preaching is completely useless. 15:14

B- All our faith is useless. 15:14

C- All preachers are liars. 15:15

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

D- We are still in our sins. 15:17

E- All that have died believing are in hell. 15:18

F- Why go on living for life has no meaning. 15:19

But my friends because of the resurrection of Christ and the promise of our resurrection because of His preaching has a purpose, our faith is useful, preachers are bearers of truth, our sins are forgiven, all who have died believing are in heaven and life has meaning.

V- The Order of the Resurrection:

The resurrection to come is going to be a very orderly and by exploring the scriptures we can see the order of the resurrection.

A- The resurrection of Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:20 says that Christ has become the "*Firstfruit of them that slept.*" Christ is the first to rise.

B- The resurrection of the rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, "*...the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.*"

Those loved ones who have died in Christ will spring forth out of the grave. Notice what else it says in *1 Thessalonians*. "*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air...*" *1 Thessalonians 4:17*.

So the next ones to rise after Christ will be the church at the rapture of the saints.

C- The pre-millennial resurrection of Old Testament and tribulation Saints. Daniel 12:2 says, "*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*"

Daniel makes it plain that there will be two different types of resurrections. We go to *Rev 20:4-6* to see this recorded as being called the first resurrection and second resurrection. *Rev 20:4-6* *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

So beloved we know He lives and we know we shall live with Him so we should get on with serving Him as we serve others and tells them the good news of the Gospel.

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