

## Mark 16: 9-20

Now when *He* rose early on the first *day* of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. <sup>10</sup> She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. <sup>11</sup> And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

<sup>12</sup> After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. <sup>13</sup> And they went and told *it* to the rest, *but* they did not believe them either.

<sup>14</sup> Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

<sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

<sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

**1) Last time we looked at how Jesus dealt with those who were near and far**

**2) As Jesus rose from the grave early Sunday morning, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene.**

a. Mary was sick and possessed by 7 demons (Luke 8:2)

b. Why would Jesus appear to her first?

i. Because she believed

**ii. The proof was that she sought Him**

c. God used her to be the first to proclaim the Good News

d. Skeptics throughout the ages attempted to cast doubt suggesting the disciples made up this story

i. If that were true, they wouldn't use a women with 7 demons

e. The narrative demonstrates that God is no respecter of persons

i. It's an accurate account of what actually happened

ii. In its simplicity, there's a certain beauty

iii. God can and will use those that others have dismissed

**3)** Mary was ahead of the Apostles in experiencing what all believers need to know and experience

**a. God will do what He promised**

i. **Mark 8:31** He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law,

and that he must be killed and after three days rise again

- ii. He is faithful and trustworthy
- iii. Regardless of the circumstances, God will do what He said

**b. God's initiates reconciliation:**

- i. **2 Cor 5:19** For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them
- ii. God took the first step because **He wants us**
- iii. We've been forgiven

**c. God advocates for us through Jesus:**

- i. **Heb 7:25** Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them
- ii. He understands our frailty and walks with us

**d. God gave us a new position in Christ:**

- i. **Eph 2:5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been

saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

ii. Heaven recognizes our new position, we should also

**e. God raising Jesus means He'll raise us as well:**

i. **1 Thes 4:17** After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

ii. This is not our home, we're just passing through

**4)** Many of the disciples throughout the ages captured these truths, believed them and lived the resurrection life

**a. God desires that all of His children live this life**

**5) Mary went and told the disciples**

a. They were mourning and weeping

b. They did not believe

**6)** Vs. 12. Jesus appears to 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus

a. The 11 wouldn't believe them either

**b. Why wouldn't they believe these reports?**

c. A more important question is why won't we sometimes believe?

i. Sometimes it's difficult to believe

d. Difficulty must always be measured by the capacity of the agent doing the work, and when God is that agent, any talk of difficulty is manifestly absurd. (**Smith**)

i. The disciples had plenty of examples / experiences

ii. [The] son of the widow of Nain?

iii. ...The daughter of Jairus?

iv. ... Lazarus? (**Smith**)

e. Many of us also have experiences to trust God

**7)** Jesus appears to the 11 at the table and rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart

a. Jesus didn't [Rebuke] the disciples for their denying, for their running, for their fear. He [rebuked] them for one thing only: their unbelief. (**Courson**)

**b. The issue is faith**

i. Not faith in what I want

ii. But that God is doing what is right

iii. Saying, Father, I believe in You

1. Even if things don't turn out the way things I hoped or expected

2. I trust because You are doing what is right

- iv. Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace. (**O. Chambers**)
- v. It's been said that a little faith will get your soul to heaven
- vi. Great faith will bring heaven to your soul

## **8) Unbelief costs so much**

- a. It caused Adam to rebel and walk away from God
- b. It destroyed the people in Noah's day
- c. It caused an 11 day journey to be 40 years

## **9) What did unbelief cost the disciples?**

- a. They were grieving as if everything was over
  - i. They missed the glorious opportunity to rejoice in God's power and faithfulness

## **10) What does unbelief cost us today?**

### **a. For some, their eternity**

- i. You need to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and repent of your sins
- ii. **Rev 21:8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who

practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

**b. For others, it's costing you peace of mind**

**i. You are worried about what you cannot control**

1. Your future
2. Your security
3. Your family

4. **Phil 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**11) How do we get faith?**

a. **Romans 10:17** Faith comes by hearing...

b. **John 20:21** but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

**12) Vs. 15** Go into all the world and preach the gospel

**13)** He who believes and is baptized

a. Faith is first

- b. Baptism is the outward sign of an inward faith
- c. It's done publically to declare the old life is dead
- d. Those who believe need to be baptized out of obedience

**14)** Signs and wonders are to follow believers

- a. A demonstration of Power and Protection
- b. Faith is the hinge that this power and protection hangs on
- c. **In My Name**
  - i. Cast out demons
  - ii. Speak with new tongues
  - iii. Take up serpents
  - iv. If they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them
  - v. They'll lay hands on the sick and they shall recover
- d. It's to be demonstrated outside the church walls as the gospel is preached

**15)** Vs. 19 After the LORD spoke to them, He was received up to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God

**16)** Prior to being received up, Jesus met with the disciples personally



- a. First came the restoration where each one knew their value
- b. Next came waiting in the upper room for the Holy Spirit
  - i. God wants to restore His people
  - ii. He wants to fill His people with power

**17)** Once they received the power of God, they couldn't help but preach and God confirmed the Word through accompanying signs