

Mark 16:9-20 – Men and the Resurrection

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Ever heard this conversation: Husband: "It's time to go." Wife: "But I'm not ready, where are we going, why didn't you tell me we were going?" Husband: "I did tell you, and I wrote a note and put it on the fridge冰箱 but you didn't pay attention. Now we can't go to the party anymore and enjoy our friends' company." This wife was like Christ's disciples. Christ often told his disciples about the resurrection but because of their spiritual deafness and their spiritual doubt...they paid no attention to what the Lord said and made no plans for his resurrection. In this 2nd sermon we will examine how the men erred this way...but how God graciously corrected them and then commanded them to announce the resurrection to others.

Our headings are: The Men's **Doubt of the Resurrection**, The Men's **Rebuke for their Doubt**, the Men's **Mission to Spread the Word** of the Resurrection, and the Men's **Dependence upon Christ for Help**.

Our goals are: That you will believe and **rejoice in the resurrection** 复活of Jesus, knowing that you were in him when he was raised from the dead, and that you will work to **spread the message of his resurrection** so the world can be saved.

Doubt of the Resurrection

9 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.

1. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome first went to the tomb and were instructed by the angel to carry the news of Christ's resurrection to the disciples so they could be encouraged and wait for Jesus' arrival. Mark states the fact that Jesus directly appeared to Mary Magdalene, the woman from whom he had cast out 7 demons (Luke 8:2) first. Evidently Mary Magdalene stayed back and Jesus met her first, appearing to her as a gardener - another privilege for women!

John 20:14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus did not first appear to his mother Mary as RC's claim. There is no proof in the Bible of this.

10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept.

2. When the women spoke to the disciples they were still in tears and in mourning. There is a good moral 道德上的 principle here: Notice here what ignorance-deliberate ignorance can do. Ignorance makes you suffer. And a mistake of such great proportion 份额, greatly increased suffering. The disciples suffered because they did not believe (or know) Jesus words about his resurrection. Jesus said:

Matthew 26: 2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Luke 18:31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 "They will scourge 鞭打 Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

3 Sadly, these men, still doubted the testimony of 3 witnesses. They doubted the words of the Jesus himself, of his angels, and of these 3 honored women. I wonder if they simply rejected the women's testimony because they were women!

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

4. Because of their doubt, Jesus did not even appear to his disciples 2nd. Rather he chose to appear to 2 other men – men on the road to Emmaus. Jesus had dropped the gardener's clothes and took on the clothes of a rabbi. (The 2 men took him to be a teacher and allowed him to pray for the meal.) Jesus did not want to honor the doubt and ignorance of his disciples who should have known better. Sadly the disciples did not believe the testimony of Christ's resurrection from these 2 men either. Christ had conquered death but the disciples were denying the benefits.

5. Even after they went to the tomb and saw the missing body and looked at the grave clothes, they still did not believe. How do we know that?

Luke 24:10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

Rebuke for their Doubt

14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked 责难 their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

1. Christ, in mercy to these miserable doubters, then proved he was alive by miraculously appearing in their presence, even with a locked door. (They are called “the eleven” because Judas was now dead, though Thomas was not with them.) What a kindness to doubters! He wished them peace! John 20:19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

2. But as a good father, Christ, did not let them totally off the hook. He promptly rebuked their unbelief and stubbornness 倔强. They had saving grace but they needed to be corrected. They had not believed that he was raised from the dead and stubbornly rejected the evidence presented by the women and the angels. This doubt shows how hopeless man is without the Holy Spirit's working in his heart. Even with evidence, man still does not believe. Your job is to speak of the resurrection clearly and forcefully but wait for God's Holy Spirit to work. Whenever he is ready to make the words you speak effective to change the unbeliever's heart, he will. If he isn't going to change the non-believer's heart, he will use your words to condemn him.

3. Why was this so important and why was this rebuke so severe: Because if Christ was not raised from the dead there is no salvation 拯救...and the testimony of the whole Bible is but a series of lies. 1Corinthians 15:13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

With no resurrection, you could simply be a selfish atheistic evolutionist...instead of living to serve others.

Mission to Spread the news of the Resurrection

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

1. While it is obvious that the women had more faith than the men, yet it pleased the Lord to commission the men to go into all the world and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature. It wasn't because the men were smarter or had more faith that they were used by God, but because it fit God's purpose for an orderly structure in society. This is why men are called to be preachers.

2. And note the area of preaching: All the world. Those foolish hyper-Calvinists who say that the Lord will save the world without your help and you don't have to go anywhere are sadly mistaken. The command to “go” is not a suggestion to “stay.” Jesus trained his people for 3 ½ years for this. This was the reason for which he came: to seek and to save that which was lost. This they did!

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

And with Christ having conquered death, no man need fear death anymore if they died in Christ.

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

3. The instruction to men was clear: Those who firmly believe in Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the means by which they are redeemed, must be baptized as a public witness to their faith. And on the contrary, Jesus taught that those who **do not firmly believe** in their hearts in Christ's life,

death, and resurrection for their redemption would be condemned to hell forever. There is no neutral territory here. There is either life or death. There is no “in limbo” state – no purgatory! 暂时的苦难 Those are figments虚构 of the imaginations of Roman Catholics. Those are hellish lies! Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 "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."

4. In addition, Christ would give his disciples power to do signs to confirm the preached word. They would be given extraordinary ability to speak in different languages (tongues), hold a poisonous snake and not be killed, and if they were forced to drink poisonous things by their enemies it would not hurt them. In addition, they would be able to raise the sick from their death beds. After the Gospel was confirmed and established, these signs ceased...just like signs ceased after confirming the words of Moses and Elijah before.

Hebrews 2:3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

But note that doctrine always precede the sign...doctrines were confirmed by signs...not the other way around.

Dependence upon Christ for Help

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

1. Christ's ascension 上升 into heaven was not simply a nice conclusion to the story as when you finish reading a fairy-tale to your children and say: "And they lived happily every after." Rather, it was a promise that the Lord would now be watching over his people from heaven as they went out into the world to preach the message of hope. They had the benefits of resurrection:

1Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast坚定, immovable不可动摇地, always abounding丰富的 in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. But they also had his loving watch care from heaven.

2. This is why verse 20 makes it clear that the Lord continued to work with them. And they needed his help. They needed courage to speak in the face of opposition. They need power to confirm the words they spoke. And Christ did not fail them. Within 40 years, the Bible said, they had turned the world upside down. This was what the Psalmist said that Christ would do upon his ascension: He would take "captivity captive." The wicked ones would be conquered.

Isaiah 2:3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Conclusion:

The disciples, because of their sin, stubbornness, and ignorance, doubted that Christ was raised from the dead. They doubted the testimony of many witnesses. So they were severely rebuked by Christ for their doubting his resurrection. But because they received the rebuke, Christ strengthened their faith and gave them the commission to spread the news of the resurrection to the ends of the earth and strengthened them from heaven for the task.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus, by his resurrection... "Abolished death and brought life and immortality永生 to light through the gospel...(2Tim 1:10) Because he lives forever you can live forever. Because he died for your sins, you don't ever have to die for your sins. Rejoice! And the day will come when he will leave the right hand of this Father where he is today and come to take you to be with him forever. Oh happy day! So face you trials in this life with confidence. You babies won't be sick in heaven. Your husband won't be insensitive and lazy. There won't be any bad bosses there. But also remember not to let the world die is death and loneliness. Tell them of the resurrection that they might believe and find hope in Jesus.

Finally, you may have the hope of heaven but you won't go there unless you have a right relationship with God. Your sins separate you from him. Christ will take away your sins, give you a clean record, adopt you as his child, and give you a new destination when you die, if you will only ask him in sincerity!