

**“Into Your World”, Mark 16: 9-20**

Today we come to the final lesson in our “Mark My Words” series that we began 9 months ago in September.

It has been of great personal spiritual motivation to single out those words of Jesus that especially speak to us for today, and not just in the context in which they were spoken.

I have put in your hands a listing of those sayings, as well as the sermon title I gave to each. I hope it will be of help to you, both in remembrance of where we have been, but also in alerting you to those messages you have missed and might want to hear online or by way of CD.

I hope too that you will be moved as you once again experience these words of Jesus to you personally.

Thank you for all the encouragements you have given me through this series. So many of you have told me how these words of Jesus and my messages about them have impacted and motivated you. Praise the Lord!

In these final 7 verses of Mark’s gospel we mark the powerful challenge of Jesus to both church and individual: **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”** (16:15)

**THE TEXT**

- 9 Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.
- 10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.
- 11 And when they heard that He was alive, and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.
- 12 And after that, He appeared in a different form to two of them, while they were walking along on their way to the country.
- 13 And they went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.
- 14 And afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining *at table*; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.
- 15 And He said to them, **“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**
- 16 **“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.**
- 17 **“And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;**
- 18 **they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

- 19 So then, when the Lord Jesus 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, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

**As a scholarly note**, it's important to know that the final 12 verses of Mark, verses 9-20, are considered by most scholars not to have been written by Mark, but added by another author at a later date.

The 4 primary reasons are as follows.

1. Most of the early manuscripts do not contain these 12 verses, but end with what we have as verse 8.
2. The style and vocabulary of these final 12 verses don't match with the rest of the book of Mark.
3. These 12 verses seem to be a quick summary of the endings of Matthew, Luke and John rather than a natural conclusion to Mark.
4. They even include 2 verses (17 & 18) that aren't paralleled in any other portion of Scripture or even confirmed by normal occurrences, giving question as to their authenticity.

*(Note: I am NOT questioning the truth of Scripture. I am simply questioning the authenticity of a widely acknowledged addition to the Scriptures.)*

The question then arises – if Mark did not write these verses, who did, and why are they found in some manuscripts? Mark probably did not intend to finish his gospel with verse 8, which ends with a negative and incomplete tone. So what are the best options?

1. Mark died before completing his gospel, and another finished it later summarizing the content of the endings of Matthew, Luke and John – but wrote it after many copies of Mark had already been made.
2. The “last page” of Mark's original was lost before copies were made. Somewhere along the line, some scribe completed the seeming incomplete gospel with a summary and words of his own. We have two such “endings” – v. 9-20 and another that might well be in the margin of your Bible. It reads:

*And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.*

Both solutions make good probable sense and are preferable to assuming that Mark wrote v. 9-20.

**NONETHELESS – these verses are found in most of our Bibles and are worthy of examination and comparison with others Scripture.**

## VERSE SUMMARIES

- v. 9-11 summarizes the John 20 account of Mary's early visit to the tomb – preceding the Mark 16:1 account of her going with the other women later in the morning (another argument for non-Mark authorship)
- v. 12-14 summarizes the Luke 24 account of Cleopas and unnamed friend on the road to Emmaus with Jesus; and then Sunday PM in the upper room, when Jesus speaks with “doubting” Thomas and the others
- v. 15-16 summarizes the Matthew 28 account of the “Great Commission” which Jesus spoke in Galilee, according to Matthew.

*Matthew 28: 18-29 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

- v. 17-18 adds new material to the commission. Certainly, these were apostolic credentials, not true for all believers, as experience shows as well as no other Scriptural support. Casting out of demons and speaking in tongues seems to be supported in Acts, but not so the prophecy regarding snakes (Paul's experience is close) and drinking poison (no example or other mention). This gives argument to many who call this spurious material.
- v. 19-20 is a summary of the ascension, mentioned in greatest detail in Luke 24 and Acts 1. It is a beautiful closing statement, summarizing the book of Acts.

## OUR COMMISSION

Jesus' words in Mark 16:15: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” emphasizes to “go” and to “preach the gospel.” This requires leaving our (1) privacy of belief and (2) comfort of nonconfrontation and being both verbal and active in sharing Jesus' message of (1) God's love, (2) our incriminating sin, (3) Jesus' provision and (4) our needed response of repentance and faith.

Matthew's words in 28:18-20 bear our close attention for a number of reasons:

1. As we have already said, Mark 16:15 was probably not written by Mark
2. The parallel Matthew passage is more complete and better known
3. The Matthew passage gives a more practical & personal commission

**A. The “WHAT” of our commission** – both as a church and individual is to EVANGELISM (“go ... make disciples”) and DISCIPLESHIP (“teaching them to observe . . .”)

The KEY COMMAND (Greek) is to MAKE DISCIPLES. This emphasis is more specific and practical than the Mark emphasis to “preach”

**B. The “HOW” of our commission** is 3-fold: (1) Go, (2) Baptize (lit. “immerse” in the persons of the Godhead) and (3) teach

NOTE: in the “name” of – “name” is singular, yet it is the name of the F, S & S.  
3 in 1!

**C. 4 UNIVERSAL TRUTHS of our commission**

1. Jesus has “all authority” - it’s all about JESUS: our going, our sharing, the results, their allegiance
2. We are to go to “all the nations” – no respecters of person, race, color, creed
3. We are to “teach all He commanded” – we are to share the full truth of the Bible
4. Jesus is with us “always” – His presence is our motivation and power

THE KEY, PERSONALLY: We must GO into OUR WORLD of family, friends and acquaintances and SPEAK and LIVE the message of JESUS.

It is NOT ENOUGH to be a believer and good person.

Or, It is NOT ENOUGH to KNOW and to GROW - we must GO

It is NOT ENOUGH to live a Godly life, ready to share if asked (1 Peter 3:15)

*“always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks...”*

- we must INITIATE – UNASHAMED of the gospel (Romans 1:16)
- we must “let our light shine” (Matt. 5:16) visible and distinctive

**THE RESURRECTION**

Jesus is not a MEMORY – but a LIVING PRESENCE. He is one to KNOW, not just KNOW ABOUT.

Our faith therefore has a continual quality – never standing still. It must GROW, for there are truths ever to be learned.

The KEY to the resurrection is GO – into your world.

This is something we all recognize as important – but we also all recognize our weakness in this area.

Remember – “you shall receive POWER (boldness) when the Holy Spirit comes upon you . . .” (Acts 1:8)

*Jesus' last comment in the "Great Commission" is that he is WITH US ALWAYS. Take Him consciously with you wherever you go.*

*All the other words and sayings of Jesus lead up to this truth.*

*Yes, we must "hear His hush", experience his forgiveness, bear spiritual fruit, touch Him, balance God and Caesar and ALL THE REST. But ultimately his commission to us is GO – be my witness in your world. That's why you are still alive.*

**GO INTO YOUR WORLD**