

SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SUBJECT: Jesus Comissions the Eleven

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:14-20

SERMON No. 34

Introduction

Mark summarizes everything from Easter Sunday to Ascension, forty days. Jesus prepared the disciples before His Ascension and attended them after His Ascension.

I. THE PREPARATION OF DISCIPLES BEFORE THE ASCENSION. (14-17).

1. He showed them their sins. (14). Afterwards he appeared unto the eleven as they say at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. This describes the attitude of the disciples on Easter Sunday. They were guilty of unbelief and hardness of heart. They did not believe the women who saw the risen Lord. Unbelief is the Christian's greatest danger. But Jesus did not abandon them. He never leaves Christians who are in trouble. From Jn. 20:19-23 we know that He forgave their sins and restored them. So it is with us.

2. He gave them the Great Commission. (15). He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. All people should hear about the completed redemption of Jesus Christ. All is done. All are now invited to the banquet.

3. He told them what to preach.(16). He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

There is no neutral ground. If you do not believe in Christ as your savior you are going to hell! Pure and simple!

4. He assured them that signs would affirm the Word, (17-18). 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; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

These signs would be given to these early preachers and followers of Jesus, which was necessary for the confirmation of the Gospel, and the establishment of Christianity in the world. It is important to understand this meaning that not all signs would be given, and not always, and not all the time, but some signs and only for a time. This was said for the encouragement both of those that preach the Gospel, and of them that hear, believe and obey.

The first example of these signs (Acts 3:1-10). Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. According to the Jewish calendar their day began at 6a.m., so the ninth hour was 3p.m.. Apparently this was the custom of Peter and John. 2 A certain man lame from his mothers womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple. 3. Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. 4. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. 5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and

praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him. Healing the lame man gave Peter and John the opportunity to preach Christ.

II. HE WAS TAKEN INTO HEAVEN. (19-20). 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.

1. These words are the commissioning of his disciples. After the Lord had spoken unto them. Just before his ascension He told them where to go, what to do, and what to say; and what would follow them as the confirmation of their mission and doctrine.

2. He ascended up in heaven to fill all things. He was received up into heaven Both His divine and human natures are everywhere, especially in the Word in the church. He ascended to send preachers and teachers to the Church.

2. He sat down at the right hand of God. He sat on the right hand of God. This is a fulfillment of Ps. 110:1. The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The first word "Lord" indicates that it is a reference to the personal name of God; the second word "Lord" refers to the Messiah, meaning Master. His sitting at God's right hand (which is everywhere) means that Jesus' saving work is complete and now the God-man, according to both natures rules all things. He is truly King of kings and Lord of lords and He will rule forever.

III. THE DISCIPLES DID AS JESUS SAID Vs. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

1. They preached the Gospel everywhere. The word "they" refers especially to the disciples but it includes all the missionaries, evangelists, preachers and teachers during the 2000 years since Christ lived. They went to Asia, Africa, North America, South America and Australia.

2. The Lord worked with them. In Matthew 28:20 He said: "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world." The Triune God, (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit) is present in His Word. A true Christian teacher is never alone when He teaches and preaches the Word of God. The Lord works with him. Think of the many examples in Acts, especially the Apostle Paul. Even in prison he sang songs of praise.

3. The Lord affirmed the Word through the signs. confirming the word with signs following. Whenever the Lord. willed, He sent signs to affirm the Word. Listen to me.. We are not told to preach signs. We are told to preach the Word. God will take care of the signs, if they are necessary. Wonderful things still attend the preaching of the Word, especially conversions.

CONCLUSION

After the ascension the disciples returned to Jerusalem with joy. They held church services in which they preached the Word and celebrated the sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. So it is with us today.