

Mark 16:15-18 – Your Mission is Possible

Calvin, TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, Rienecker, Handfuls, Geneva, PNT, Family, Robertson, Trapp, Poole, Clarke, Brink, Vincent, Lightfoot, Eclectic
Beloved in the Lord: **Jesus did everything you needed him to do and he was everything you needed him to be.** He obeyed through his life, resisted temptation to sin, was ignored by his family, betrayed by his friend, abandoned by his disciples, denied by Peter, condemned by the priests, sentenced to death though innocent, tortured physical and mentally, endured the pain and shame of the cross, died, buried for you, and rose again from the dead for you. He showed he was man when he died, and he showed he was God when he arose. He was that perfect sacrifice for you!

Now it is your turn to respond to what he did for you.

Our headings are:

Go and Preach

Baptized those who Believe

God will help you

Our goals are: **That, instructed by Christ and enabled by his Holy Spirit, you will live your life working to conquer the world for him who gave his life for you.**

Go and preach

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

1. Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach.

John 17:18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

A preacher is a herald...one who boldly preaches. He is kind, but he is never timid. He is loving, but he is never intimidated. He may be threatened, but never afraid. He knows he is following the orders of his General!

But with Christ having conquered death, no man needs to fear death anymore, even if he were killed while preaching.

2. Jesus commissioned his disciples to preach the Gospel.

What is that Good News? **God was manifested in the flesh** and his name was Immanuel. God the Son covered over man's sins and pacified an angry God by shedding his blood. All sinners who put their trust in him were saved for eternity! They were **not to preach inclusion or tolerance**. They were to preach God's plan for saving man!

1John 2:2 And **He Himself is the propitiation for our sins...**

3. Jesus commissioned his disciples to "go" and preach the Gospel.

The command to "go" was not a suggestion. Jesus trained his people for 3 ½ years for this. He did test runs sending them out by 70...then 500...and then the whole church.

4. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and preach the Gospel everywhere - every country, every ethnic group.

Hyper-Calvinists say the Lord will save the world without your help and you don't have to go anywhere. They are mistaken.

Matthew 22:9 '**Therefore go into the highways**, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 "So those servants went out into the highways and **gathered together** all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Matthew 28:19 "**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

For God so loved the world... Yes, **God started with the lost sheep of Israel**, but that was **never intended to be the end**. The lost sheep of Israel were only the beginning. Jesus sent his people to gather people from everywhere to come to his royal feast.

5. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and preach the Gospel everywhere to every creature.

Wherever the Devil has set up his nursery and had his plants growing, the disciples were to go.

Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To **raise up the tribes of Jacob**, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also **give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Ephesians 2:17 And He came and **preached peace to you who were afar off** and to those who were near. 19 Now, therefore, you are **no longer strangers and foreigners**, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

There was never any compulsion! This was an offer of peace. **But those rejected this offer did so at their own peril.**

6. Lessons:

a. While the women had more faith than the men and were honored by the Lord to witness his resurrection first, yet Jesus commissioned men to preach. It wasn't because the men were smarter or had more faith that they were used by God, but **because it fitted God's purpose for an orderly structure in society.** Of course this does not restrict women from giving witness for Jesus Christ. All Christians are to give testimony of who Jesus is and what he has done for them.

b. If you can't go to take the Gospel overseas, send others, or send your love, prayers, and encouragement.

c. Don't force people into the kingdom. Proclaim the Gospel in love and let them decide what they will do.

d. This marked the clearest evidence the ceremonial division between the Jews and the Gentiles had been fully removed! All were welcomed in the past, but now the doors of the kingdom were open wide.

Baptized those who believe

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

1. Those who believe in Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the means by which they are redeemed, must be baptized.

Psalm 126:5 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

Baptism is not done to those who only intellectually give assent to the Gospel. Rather, the one who is baptized is one who **believes in his heart he deserves to die in hell** but that the Lord saved him and gave his victory over the Devil, the world, and his flesh. (Baptism was done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Mt 28)

2. The disciples were to baptize those who believed as a public witness to their faith.

a. Some misuse this verse to argue baptism is necessary for salvation. Baptism is not necessary for salvation. So how do you answer them? Tell them that their view is inconsistent with the Bible. To be consistent, you must understand this verse this way: "**He who believes (and shows it by being baptized) will be saved.** You see this correct understanding displayed in the life of the Philippian jailer in Acts 16, who was told, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved..." There is no mention of being baptized to be saved. But he showed he believed by being baptized.

(Also, "Go home and eat" does not require that you have to eat. The command could mean, "God home and eat (if you want)."

b. Others misuse this verse to teach that children are not to be baptized because they can't believe. But this verse was intended to teach about preaching and believing; it was not intending to teach about covenant baptism. Many other verses speak of the covenant sign for children. **As a result of a parent's faith, his children are given special promises** and are also baptized.

Further, those who argue that children are not to be baptized because they don't have faith, are in reality condemning all children who die in infancy to hell.

But if God condemned all children on account of their parents' faithlessness, he will surely save elect infants who die in infancy based on their parent's faith.

3. On the contrary, Jesus taught 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! Those are figments of the imaginations-hellish lies! **They minimize justice so sin does not seem so bad!**

4. Lessons:

a. The one who is saved, believes...he must believe that his sins were atoned for on the cross.

b. Those who don't believe Jesus died for their sins are already sentenced to death! But you can help them. You can show love to them by proclaiming the Gospel to them. Maybe they will see they need for someone to take their punishment! Maybe they will find Jesus!

c. Love what your baptism pictures – your eternal salvation. You are no longer under condemnation – and can never be condemned again!

God will help you

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."

1. Christ gave his disciples power to do signs to confirm the preached word.

Because Jesus sent his disciples in his name, he also gave them the ability to show his power! And they did!

(You need fireworks for New Year, don't you!)

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.

These gifts of signs and wonders were limited to certain individuals. Not every Christian had these gifts...or even a gift. The gift of doing miracles, for instance, was restricted to just a few, and even that for a time. (Paul could not heal Epaphroditus.)

These gifts of signs and wonder were limited to a certain time. When all the miracles were recorded in the completed Word of God, there was no more need to perform them.

2. But there was one sign that had dual purposes: The sign of speaking in tongues.

This sign strengthened the faith of the believer, but the message of the sign was the Gospel, and that was how **many from foreign nations were able to hear the Gospel** of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:22 Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

Speaking in tongues was a language, of course, and not the gobbledy gook that you hear in some churches today.

3. What were some of those powerful things that confirmed the Gospel that the Apostles spoke?

They spoke in different languages (tongues) miraculously. (Acts 2)

They held poisonous snakes and were not killed. (Acts 28:5-6)

They were able to raise the sick from their death beds. (James 5:14)

They were forced to drink poisonous things by their enemies but those things did not hurt them.

They prayed for the demon possessed and they were freed. (Acts 5:16)

After the Gospel was confirmed, these signs ceased...just like signs ceased after confirming the words of Moses and Elijah.

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?

4. Matthew adds: Jesus offered his presence and fellowship with his disciples as they preached the Gospel.

Matthew 28:20...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
Amen.

Remember in Numbers 14 how the Lord warned his people, that because he was not with them, they would certainly lose!

5. Lessons:

a. You lose if you go to conquer the world in your own wisdom and wise words. You can't fight the Devil and win. Ask God to help you – as he promised.

b. Because God will help you, you will win and build the kingdom. He promised it. He confirmed it!

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and **behold, a great multitude** which no one could number, of **all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes**, with palm branches in their hands,

There is no greater encouragement to do something than knowing you will be successful.

c. Don't panic if you don't have all these gifts...and don't speak in tongues...and can't do miracles. These gifts were only temporary. Tell people of these great recorded miracles...that these miracles do confirm the words you speak.

Conclusion:

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

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Why did I title the sermon “Your Mission is Possible?” I gave it this title because you have been enabled by Jesus to obey his command of preaching and baptizing those who believe. How does the Lord enable you? He does so by his Word and Spirit.

2. Get into the Word and depend on the Spirit and let them strengthen you to do the work of the Lord.

3. Being enabled, reach for the lost! The mission is possible because you are going in the strength of the Lord!

Finally, you are able to resist submitting to the Lord and refusing his offer of salvation, but I wouldn't want to be in your shoes. If I were you, I would call on the Lord and confess that I need help and beg him for forgiveness. Jesus paid the full price of forgiveness to all who call for help. Call out urgently.