

## Mark 16.9-20

**Prior Context:** Jesus rises from the dead.

**Immediate Context:** Jesus appears to three groups of people; Mary Magdalene, the two on the road, and the 11 disciples as they sat at the table.

**MOT** (main obj of text): Christian Life

**CIT** (central idea of text): Jesus' disciples did not believe the report of His resurrection. They should have.

**Thesis:** Believe Jesus rose from the dead.

**Proposition:** I want my hearers to have resurrection faith in Jesus and apply this phenomenon to their own lives.

**Probing Question:**

**Unifying Word:**

**Transition Sentence:** What principles can we glean from the text that will tell us what shall we do as a result of resurrection faith?

**Title:** Resurrection Faith

### Outline:

Intro: Mark 16.9-20 has a lot of history. Join us in Bible study so that we can do a deeper analysis of this text and why it has a little controversy behind it.

Nevertheless, it is chock full of incredible principles that are helpful for us today. It is Resurrection Sunday. Today, I want to speak to you from the topic of "Resurrection Faith".

What principles can we glean from the text that will tell us what shall we do because of our resurrection faith.

- I. Realizing Jesus has risen with all power we should use resurrection faith to drive us towards spontaneous witnessing (vv9-11)
  - a. Runteldat – spreading gossip or being a tattle-tell or simply spreading info.
  - b. Many want to runteldat when something exciting happens in an area in which they are passionate. Did you see the Cavs yesterday? They were losing and LeBron went in with a monster slam at the three minute mark to tie the game against the Pacers. The Cavs played clamped down defense to keep the Pacers from winning the game at the last second. Men were high fiving, celebrating, and sharing their version of what happened. They were witnesses. And they had to runteldat.
  - c. Women, oftentimes, are deeper than men. They attend a relationship seminar that gives them exactly what they need to hear. The seminar is deeper than Dr. Phil. It is more effective than Oprah Winfrey. This seminar is transformative. They cannot wait to share it with their family and friends. They must runteldat.
  - d. Mary made her way to the borrowed tomb. The text says she got up early Sunday morning. Her efforts were not in vain. She saw the risen Savior. And she was compelled to runteldat.

- e. Understand this is the Mary who had seven demons. This is the Mary who was living in torment. This is the Mary who was experiencing hell on earth. This is the Mary who loved the Master. The Master had torn down the strong-holds over her life. He had broken the chains of bondage. He cast the demons out of her and made her free!
  - f. This Mary had to runteldat. Her resurrection faith drove to spontaneous witnessing. She ran to Jesus' disciples to share the Good News!
  - g. Those of us who have had and continue to have a Jesus encounter must runteldat. The loving Savior drives us to spontaneously witness for Him.
  - h. If He's been good to you, you know what I'm talking about. You try to hold it in but it's like fire shut up in your bones. You can't help it. You must runteldat with spontaneous witnessing. Jesus is alive and well! He has risen with all power! We share the Good News and leave all the results to God. Our job is spontaneous witnessing for Him. Now runteldat.
- II. Realizing Jesus has risen with all power we should use resurrection faith to execute organized witnessing (v12-13)
- a. While it is true that God may not hold us accountable for the results of witnessing, He does hold us responsible for the process of witnessing.
  - b. During Jesus' ministry, we find in Mark 6 beginning at verse 7 that He organized the disciples and sent them out in pairs to witness. He enabled them with power from on high to complete their assignments. They were not responsible for the results. They were held accountable for their obedience to His commission to them.
  - c. Today, Jesus wants us to organize and witness to the world together. Ecc 4:9 GNB states Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. Verse 12 informs us that a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- d. As great as Michael Jordan was, he could not win the NBA championship on his own. As great as LeBron James is, he could not win the NBA championship on his own. It was a team effort and they were organized to win.
- e. And so it is in the church. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. When we are unified on a mission for God, we are unstoppable. The enemy knows this. So he tries to create disharmony and disunity.
- f. You know the saying. Together we stand. Divided we fall. The enemy wants to separate and scatter the flock. But when we are organized, with resurrection faith, we can go out in pairs, or in threes, or in whatever number is fit for the task.
- g. When we witness together, if I am down you can pick me up. If you are disheartened I can encourage you. If an unbeliever asks a question and you do not have the answer, perhaps your witnessing companion can address the question.
- h. It is a good thing when babes in Christ get with spiritually mature Christians and move from the seats to streets together. The senior saint can mentor the junior saint to help them grow in their resurrection faith.
- i. Many of us can tell others our story. We have a personal testimony. That is a good thing. Keep doing that. But at some point, we ought to be able to share the deeper things of Christ. Small groups help with this process because as we go deeper in the Word, we can also learn from each other.
- j. In the military, I could always do more push-ups, more sit-ups, and run longer and faster... when I did it in a group. There is something about being in a group or paired with someone that provides extra motivation.
- k. Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They fed from each other's excitement. [Luk 24:32 KJV](#) And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

- l. I may not agree with the theology of Jehovah's Witnesses. However, I do agree with their process, their method. They send out witnesses in pairs and usually one of the two is more knowledgeable than the other. They are always in training on how to become a more effective witness.
  - m. As Christians with resurrected faith you and I ought to be executing organized witnessing. There should be real witnessing and real training taking place out there in the streets, our mission field, at least once a month.
  - n. We have in our possession the best story ever told. It is found in the Bible. Jesus wants us organized to witness for Him. He is risen! You will not find Him in the grave. Mary looked. He was not there. The disciples looked. He was not there. We can go look today. He is not there! He got up!
  - o. The church is a living organism and we are organized to carry forth the Good News of our resurrected LORD and Savior.
- III. Realizing Jesus has risen with all power we should use resurrection faith to demonstrate evidence-based witnessing (v14-20)
- a. According to the text, not everyone believed the report of the witnesses. Most of us are familiar with Doubting Thomas. But before we become too hard on Thomas, let us consider that the other disciples were slow to believe as well.
  - b. And just in case you doubt Mark's account, Luke tells us in Luk 24:11 NIV But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.
  - c. Now think about this for a moment. Jesus had poured His life into these disciples for the past three years. He tells them many times that He would die but rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. He shared His mission and God's plan of salvation.

- d. So why did they not believe? And if there is someone in the congregation today who still have doubts, why do you not believe? Let me share just a little bit of evidence. Even scholarly atheists will admit that Jesus was a real person in history and that he died of crucifixion. They struggle with the resurrection. Let's consider the evidence.
- e. The Buddha's body was cremated. No one has seen him since. Muhammad, founder of Islam, is buried in Medina, Saudi Arabia. Many visitors see where he is laying every year. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism is buried in Illinois. Yes, he is still there. Confucius is buried in his hometown of Qufu, China. Jesus' grave is empty! This is evidence 1.
- f. Evidence 2 is that Jesus was seen on the earth in His human body for 40 days after His resurrection. There were lots of witnesses. He ate. He drank. He taught. He restored Peter. I would understand the doubt if only the 11 were witnesses. But the Bible tells us there were hundreds of witnesses. All of these people were not lying.
- g. Evidence 3 is the transformation of the disciples. They were hiding in a room with the doors locked, fearful, because of their association with Jesus. John was the only one of the original 12 at the cross. The rest hid like cowards. But after the resurrection they preached the Gospel with boldness and clarity. They were no longer afraid. They were not timid any more. They preached Jesus and Him crucified.
- h. Evidence 4 is the transformation of Saul. Saul was a persecutor of the Christians. He felt it was his calling to stop this sect, this heresy, these followers of Jesus Christ by any means necessary. And he took this calling seriously. He wanted the Christians either dead or alive.
- i. Ohhhh, but after he had a Jesus encounter. This brother went from trying to pursue the Christians to helping to promote the Christian agenda. He went from trying to silence their voices to being the loudest voice for Jesus. He went from working with the soldiers to destroy the blossoming

faith to becoming a soldier himself on the battlefield for the LORD. The evidence speaks for itself.

- j. Ohhhh, the greatest evidence is found in true modern day disciples of Jesus. Consider again the text. Look at verses 17 & 18. <read text>
- k. Notice. Jesus is referring to those who believe, not just preachers, teachers, prophets, evangelist, and the like. He is talking about the everyday believer of the Gospel. Jesus is not asking any of us to pick up snakes or drink poison.
- l. He is saying a believer and follower of Christ will have signs that will accompany his belief. In other words, he will have evidence-based witnessing. Like the disciples, like Paul, one of the most effective witnessing proof is a changed life.
- m. I used to be a gang-banger. But the resurrected Jesus changed my life.
- n. I used to abuse my wife. But when Jesus died, my abusive ways died too.
- o. I used to be abused. But my resurrected faith gives me resurrection power to tell that Negro that "beat down" does not reside at this address any more. Either the abuse stops or somebody has got to go.
- p. I used to be an absentee parent. But when I realized that Jesus got up, He made me realize I had to get off my trifling assets and be there for my kids.
- q. I used to be a slave to the bottle. But Jesus set me free when He rose from the dead. And whom the Savior makes free is free indeed.
- r. I used to be an addict. But the risen Jesus has taken the taste and the desire out of my mouth and spirit. I am high of Jesus. I don't need drugs!
- s. I used to be so spiteful and envious. But now, my resurrection faith tells me that what the LORD has for me is for me.
- t. I used to be so hateful and angry all the time. But Jesus has conquered hate and has proven how much He loves me. Now I love Him and others because He first loved me.

- u. I used to be sad all the time. But the resurrected Savior has given me joy. And this joy I have, the world didn't give it. And the world can't take it away.
- v. I used to be a liar, a schemer, and a cheat. But Jesus told me that the enemy comes to kill, steal, and destroy. But Jesus has come to give me life, and life more abundantly. I believe that! I have resurrection faith.
- w. I used to be someone who just settled. But now Jesus has enabled me to get educated... to get motivated... to seek better for myself and my family. If He can raise Himself, surely, He can raise me above my mediocrity!
- x. Whatever you are going through, Jesus can deliver you. Death could not stop Him and grave could not hold Him. He gave His life so you and I could have a changed life.
- y. He died and was resurrected so you and I can die to the old man (who walked according to our flesh and sinful nature) and be raised up with Jesus to the new man (who walks after the Holy Spirit exemplifying the Fruit of the Spirit).
- z. Some of us have made serious and dramatic changes in our lives. We did not do it. It was the transformative power of the Holy Spirit who changed us from what we were to what you see today. Examine the evidence.
- aa. Some of us are still on the transformation journey. We may not be what we ought to be today but thank God we are not what we used to be. Check out the evidence.
- bb. Again, one of our most effective evidence-based witnesses for Jesus is a Holy Spirit filled transformed life. If you have resurrection faith, Jesus can transform you as a living testimony and proof of His resurrection.

**Conclusion:** I pray everyone in the congregation and listening online are believers. I pray you each have resurrection faith that gives you resurrection power to be a



spontaneous witness for Jesus at times, an organized witness for Him at other times, and an evidence-based witness for Him by living a transformed life.

I do not believe it is a mistake that you are listening to this message at this appointed time. For any unbeliever, you have a decision to make. Jesus died and rose again for you too. For the believer, do you have enough faith, resurrection faith, to obey Jesus and become a witness for Him? He will anoint and enable you to do so. We at Calvary will train you to do so.

This world is drowning in a sea of sin. We have the life line. His name is Jesus. Will we take the life line out to a drowning soul? That's what Jesus did for us. I pray we will go and do likewise. He will accompany us and give us the evidence of a changed life to help someone else receive what Jesus has given to us... the Gospel... the key to eternal life.

The door of the church is open.