

AGAPE PRAYER MONDAY APRIL 5, 2021

AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

DEVOTION: Mark 16:9-20; “Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.

11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.

13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat 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.

15 And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And 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.

19 So then 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 everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

1. Mark's gospel records that after Jesus was raised from the dead on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene. She went and told His followers who were weeping and mourning that Jesus is alive, but they did not believe her. Mark 16:9-11, they did not believe her (1) because a person who was dead was not expected to be alive after three days. (2) They knew that Jesus died on the cross because they witnessed Him being crucified. (3) They did not know the scripture. (4) They had lost hope because they followed Jesus for three years expecting Him to establish His earthly kingdom and overthrow Rome, their oppressor. Instead, they watched Him being treated as a common criminal and killed by crucifixion which was the most humiliating death in those days. He worked miracles, healed the sick and raised the dead, yet they crucified Him without Him resisting. (5) They did not believe because doubt could have caused them to wonder if they made a mistake by following Him for three years. (6) They did not believe because they did not remember the many times, He told them that He would rise from the dead. They did not remember that He told them that He would come again. They did not remember that He raised Lazarus from the dead. (7) Could it be that the followers of Jesus were very cautious when they did not believe the reports, they wanted to be sure before they acted on what they heard, because they were fearful of the implication if what they heard was false.

2. After He appeared to Mary, He appeared to two of His followers as they walked in the country. Those men went and told the rest of His followers that He met them as they walked in the country, still they did not believe. (12-13)

3. The eleven disciples were eating, and Jesus appeared to them and rebuked them because of their lack of faith and hardness of heart in not believing the reports that He is alive. He then commanded them to go into all the world and preach the gospel. When they obey and preach the

gospel, signs of healings and miracles would accompany their preaching. He told them that they would speak in other tongues. After commanding them, He ascended to be with His Father. After His ascension to Heaven, His disciples went and preach the gospel everywhere and the Lord was with them in Spirit and confirmed the word with signs.

4. Notice Jesus rebuked them, but He did not condemn them. He did not wait for a response from them, He assigned them to the Great Commission, to go into all the world and preach the gospel. He knew that by Him appearing to them in Person would give them enough courage to carry out the assignment. There could be no more doubts and He gave them the assurance that the preaching of the word would produce results of signs and wonders. He further gave them confidence that they would be protected from harms and dangers of the enemy. The followers of Jesus had the evidence they needed of the resurrection because they saw Him. They also had the proof that He was who He said He was, (THE SON OF GOD.) They saw Him as He ascended to heaven to be with His Father, back to where He was before He came to earth in His physical form.

5. May God help us as we obey in fulfill the Great Commission.