

HE

MARK CHAPTER 16

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices early on the first day of the week, to anoint the body of Jesus. Mark says they came when the Sabbath was past. From now on it would be the Lord's Day. Jesus arose from the dead on Sunday. He made at least five of His appearances on Sunday. The Church began on Sunday. The first gospel sermon was preached on Sunday. The first converts were baptized on Sunday. The Church observed the Lord's Supper on Sunday and at one point Paul told the Churches at Galatia and Corinth to receive a special offering for the poor in Jerusalem on Sunday, which indicated their habit of meeting together on the first day of the week. What a grim joke the Lord would play on the rejecters of the gospel if He staged His Second Coming on Sunday. The man that can give us the answer to that question can name his own price. Only God could give us the answer and He named His price. The price was the shed blood of His Son and our Redeemer. The story of Mark sixteen is the story of the One who did have strength enough to roll away the stone even though it was exceeding great. It tells us about what HE did. First it says,"HE IS RISEN!"

### **HE IS RISEN**

He is risen is the announcement the angel made to the women. The three women, (see first line above) saw a young man sitting on the right side of the tomb when they entered and they were amazed. This young man was present when God laid the foundation of the earth and the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy. He was arrayed in a white robe. Matthew tells us that his countenance was as lightning and the entire macho Roman guard fell on their faces and became as dead men.

Mark tells us when the women entered into the tomb

the angel was sitting on the right side arrayed in a white robe. This was his message, "He is risen; He is not here; behold the place where they laid Him." Look at the place. Look at it. John tells us what they saw when they saw the place. They saw the embalming wrappings that encased the body of Jesus looking just like they were when they were wrapped around the dead body of Jesus, but there was no body in the wrappings. The resurrected body of Jesus did not need to unwrap Himself. The stone was not rolled away to let Him out any more than doors had to be opened to let Him in the upper room when He appeared to the apostles, the doors being shut.

He was risen because it was not possible that the bonds of death should hold Him. If it was not possible for the bonds of death to hold the Christ then it is not possible for the bonds of death to hold the Christ-like.

But listen to that statement again, "Behold the place where they laid Him." He showed them the place. It is always good to show others the place. Show them the place where it tells us where we are also buried. Romans the sixth chapter tells us, "We were buried with Him in baptism." Show them the place. Show them the place where Jesus told the Apostles, "This do in remembrance of Me." Show them the place where it says in Acts 20:7, "Upon the first day of the week we were gathered together to break bread." Show them the place where Paul said in Hebrews chapter ten, "Neglect not the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is." Show them the place. But not only does it say, "He is risen," but here is something else that we are told HE did, "He goeth before you."

# **HE GOETH BEFORE YOU**

He goeth before you into Galilee. He told them before He died that after the resurrection He would go before them into Galilee. He said, "Go tell my disciples and Peter. Go tell Peter." Why would He say, "Go tell Peter" when Peter had denied three times that he even knew Him? He said to go tell Peter because Peter has wept. He said to go

tell Peter because Peter has repented. He said to go tell Peter because Peter has suffered. He said to go tell Peter because he has sinned. He said to go tell Peter because I forgive him. He said to go tell Peter because he is your brother. He said to go tell Peter because I love him. He said to go tell Peter because I want to use him. Jesus did not say to go tell Peter because he cursed and denied Him, but because of his repentance and his tears.

He may have gone to Galilee before them because some things the Lord wants us to do require effort. Sometimes it is not convenient to do what the Lord requires of us. Another reason He wanted them to go to Galilee was because Galilee was in the north and Judea was in the south. And He wanted to give the news of His resurrection a wider hearing.

He may have gone before them into Galilee because Galilee was a despised place. Nazareth was there and the saying was, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Judea was the center of religious activity. Maybe the Lord wanted to show that the gospel was for the worst of sinners. I go before them into Galilee. Maybe it was because He wanted to put emphases on the need to carry the gospel to all the world.

Now let us remember that Jesus had made an appointment for us each week at the Lord's Table. Remember, whether you keep the appointment or not, there is an appointment that you will keep. It may be awkward and embarrassing for some but we all shall appear. No one will be too busy to keep it. It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment; you will keep that appointment. Now here is something else that He did.

## HE APPEARED FIRST TO MARY MAGDALENE

He appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom He had cast out seven demons. Mary was a woman who could not forget. She could not forget what it was like to share her body with seven big, whoppin', rotten, stinking, filthy, putrid, dirty, lewd, obscene, coarse, gross, polluted, vulgar, despicable, low-down, good-for-nothing demons. A woman was first in transgression, so it was a woman who would be first in seeing the risen Lord. He appeared first unto Mary Magdalene. Mark also tells us about something else that He did. He appeared unto two of them in another form.

## HE APPEARED IN ANOTHER FORM

Luke tells us that there were two of them on their way to the village of Emmaus. He says they did not know Him at first because their eyes were holden. Mark tells us why their eyes were holden. He appeared to them in another form.

In another sense many have eyes today that are holden. They cannot see the terms of pardon revealed in the New Testament, because they have never heard. One church leader told me his preacher does not speak as plainly as he should on the plan of salvation. Get them in first and then let them find out the truth for themselves.

The resurrected body of Jesus is different. Now He can pass through walls even if the doors were shut. He can disappear and then appear. Yet He was the same Jesus. He still had concern for their welfare; He helped them catch a boat-

load of fish. He showed compassion for the weeping women at the tomb. Mary thought He was the gardener until He spoke her name, then she recognized His voice. When He appeared to the Apostles on the evening of the resurrection day they thought He was a spirit until He showed them His hands and His feet. While they still disbelieved for joy He asked for something to eat and they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and honeycomb and He ate it before them. He was the same yet there was a difference. No one now leans his head on His bosom. The old familiarity is gone. The Devil is not tempting Him now; His enemies are completely out of the picture.

We also in our resurrected state will be seen in another form-different, yet the same. Paul says, "This body is sown in corruption and raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. We shall appear in Heaven in our resurrected body in another form. When He shall appear we shall see Him as He is and we shall be made like Him." Now notice what He said unto them.

#### HE SAID UNTO THEM

He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He said, "Preach the gospel." The gospel as Paul defines it is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus said, "Preach it. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This was just part of what He said. In Luke He told them that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name unto all the nations beginning from Jerusalem. Peter gave an example of the proper response when he told the believers on the day of Pentecost to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins and then he added a further blessing namely the gift of the Holy Spirit. And now just one final word, "He was received up into Heaven."

# HE WAS RECEIVED UP INTO HEAVEN

He told them, "These signs shall accompany them that believe they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents, if they drink any deadly thing it shall in no wise hurt them, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

At this point He was received up into Heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Paul repeats this when he says that Jesus made purification for sins and sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. He said it again when he said that we have a great high Priest who sat down on the right hand of God.

After His Ascension they went forth and preached everywhere and the Lord confirmed the word by the signs that followed. Since the word has been confirmed those signs are no long needed today. Now we preach the confirmed word. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. This broadcast of the gospel can be heard on some stations all over the world, from pole to pole to anyone, any place, if they are on-line. In Christ, there is no east or west, or north or south. We have heard it said many times that east is east and west is west and never the twain shall meet. Go east and never change your course and you will never run into the west. Go west and never

change your course and you will never run into the east. However, Christ makes all directions come together.

For Christ is Christ and rest is rest, And love true love must greet.

In east and west hearts crave for rest; And so the twain shall meet.

The east is still east, the west is still west At Jesus nail pierced feet.

He is not here for He is risen even as He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Now these final words from the Apostle Paul at the end of the book of Hebrews, "Now the God of peace who brought again from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, even our Lord Jesus. Make us perfect in every good thing to do His will working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory for ever and ever Amen."

# Letters from Listeners

Ike and Lee's Update

Your Donated Used Clothing Winning Souls! In 1983 when the acute famine hit Ghana, Churches of Christ in the USA came to the aid of Churches of Christ in Ghana with assorted relief items like rice, mackerel, soup, powdered chicken, beans, clothing, etc, etc., and through this many souls flooded the church winning all these souls to Christ! Though many too fell away from the grace, there are still a great number of them who are still actively in the church and we even know of some of them who fell away that are back serving God in the church (we have 6 of such brethren in our congregation). Like the Macedonians, GIJAPA is doing such a wonderful job with the clothing and the assorted items donated by you out there to the poor village folks in the rural areas of Ghana who couldn't attend church because they did not have descent clothing. Recently, the 8 big boxes of assorted items of books, toys, toothpastes, brushes, sandals, clothing, etc., etc., from Brother Bob Stevens and the Allensburg Church of Christ is doing a wonderful job that attendance at all the congregations where some of the items were shared has doubled ñ more new children and more new adults are attending church with the hope that something would be given out, and yes, many homes can not afford a tube of toothpaste! So they go home to tell their friends and family members about what the Lord is doing in their churches and they come to stay! We still have some of the Allensburg Church's gifts available for those who will come on later, as almost everybody has got something. Keep on donating and we shall use them to win souls!

Weather and Baptisms: The weather is very sunny and the heat is unbearable yet we go through it on foot most of the times because there is no access road to a village. Meeting and studying the Bible with some of the villagers on their farms relaxing under a tree or a constructed shed is fun and rewarding. The acute water shortage in many towns and villages too is helping us to get more people to talk to because the people go to wait for hours to get just a

bucket full of water out of a hole they dig. So we get them to talk to whilst waiting for the holes to be full with water. Too much heat in rooms is also another opportunity we are using to talk to people who wait in the open for hours before they go inside to sleep. Praise the Lord; though it is not a huge number, we baptized 19 souls ñ 12 women and 7 men.

Bibles and Bible Lessons: We need more Bibles, please, come to our aid with more. As the visitors and new converts increase the need for Bibles also do increase. Bibles in our local languages are also needed. Thanks to GIJAPA for the Bibles, but we still need more. Lessons are still coming in from previous students who couldn't complete their lessons and we are also mailing out lessons to students and people who are using the lessons for Bible Classes in their churches (including other churches). We need to mail more for grading.

Ed's Sermon Translation: This project is still ongoing and winning souls. People are asking for DVDS of Ed Bousman so that they can see him whilst preaching or teaching the Bible as we interpret what he is saying to them. Thank you Ed for your work for the Lord!

Conclusion: We shall meet next month with more positive news about the job we are both doing here for the Lord. Thank you and keep praying for us and GIJAPA. God bless you!!

Dear Naomi and Ed,

Greetings from Kentucky. I hope that you're okay in Lynchburg. I've wanted to ask you about sending your Bible lessons to another man in Uganda. His name is Stephen Ssali. I met him when I was there. He interpreted for me, and he also attended the seminar that we had. It would be great if he could complete all of those (Studies in the Bible) lessons. Would you send them to him so that he can start? It will help so much as we work with that small nucleus of men. Thank you. I'm praying for you both.

Because of the Lord. Barry Kermeen

Thank you for preaching the word. I call you my Sunday morning wake up preacher I have heard you preach for years on 700 WLW in Cincinnati. Our church has been in a battle and I had told my husband I don't think I can go anymore I still knew what the evangelist preacher that preached in revivals at our church said, "Stay and fight, fight for your Church." I have got weak on the battlefield. After hearing you say fight this morning in your sermon "Fight The Good Fight" I'm up and getting ready to head back to the battle field. I leave this request with you, we need prayer. Again I say thank you.

Sister in the Lord (Vicki's email.)

To Uncle Eddie,

So, so glad o hear you are feeling better. I hope all is well with all to serve GIJAPA. There has been much snow here in Nebraska. Here are a few shackles for whatever God decides to put on your heart. You asked me why I call you Uncle Eddie. My Father called you "Brother." He was a very smart man therefore that makes you my uncle.

Love Mark

Mr. Ed Bousman,

Hello my name is Thomas S. I am currently incarcerated in the Arkansas Department of Corrections. I had received both the Bible and Bible study you sent me back in November 2009. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I think it is a real blessing you do that for whoever writes you and asks.

Sincerely Thomas

Bro. Bousman,

Praise the Lord! A friend turned me on to your program, which I hear 9:30 Sunday nights on WRVA 1140 in Richmond, VA. To be frank, I first found you to be cheesy and old-fashioned, but it didn't take long for me to realize that an old-fashioned solution is what's needed for so many of today's modern problems, namely Jesus! I am thankful; first and foremost that God would save a wretch like me. I am also thankful that God uses you, brother, to deliver an uncompromising, spot-on gospel message every single week. I am told that you put out a newsletter. I would be privileged to be added to your mailing list. Until we meet face-to-face in glory, I pray that God continues to richly bless your ministry. Like the man said, "Gimme that old-time religion, it's good enough for me!"

In His Service Matthew B. Petersburg, VA

Madame Naomi: thanks for the update on the health of Sir Ed Bousman! We are wishing & praying so much for him pray his medicines work greatly for him. May God embrace him with his healing power to restore his health, & please my sister keep on to be strong always for our dear Ed Bousman! It is about 12am here & I still have to take my night sleep. I am totally thankful & enjoy this Sunday having spent our time with our four (4) local churches. I am a bit tired but I am fulfilled. Thanks so much also for thinking of us in your prayers. Please keep on praying with the need of the two (2) churches. I am quite so sad to work with these churches having no communion trays God bless GIJAPA for working on this! I could not imagine the ener-

gy that exudes in you that you keep on leading GIJAPA soaring in the airwave to be heard around the world. Keep on Madame. You are in our prayers. I am going to Pugo & Tubao towns tomorrow & I am sure this is surprised development on our request. Pray also for the work there. I expect to study with elementary teacher & 5 Baptist members there. I will be having a visit to a preacher of a Seventh Day Adventist today in our town. I have befriended him lately & we both invited to each other for a Bible study. Please pray I would be able to present him the Sunday Biblical foundation of service for God's people today. I know that this is a bit somewhat in-depth Bible study as it concerns on the OT & some secular history. I have to go for now my dear teacher. Please tell to Sir Ed we are so blessed for having GIJAPA in the field!

Ed Domingo-Philippines

Dear Naomi - Ed

Thank for your faithfulness in the ministry. I am receiving your messages now almost 6 years. When I was in the Bible Collage you sent me the Bibles, now as a pastor I am serving church in South India. You may plan some time to visit and hold a conference.

Thank you, John Swaraj T.

Dear Brother Ed and Sister Naomi,

How is Brother Ed Bousman doing? I have received the 2 boxes of used clothes you sent. Thank you very much. As at now we are waiting for the Bibles and other gifts to arrive. Immediately I receive all the Bibles and clothes, shoes and clothes for children as I requested, then I will start to visit all the four churches that we opened after our graduation. Thank you once again for the wonderful work you are doing and continue doing. It is much appreciated. Quick recovering to our spiritual parent Ed Bousman. We love you very much. I am looking forward to†hearing more from you. Continue to pray for us. Your brother and fellow servant of Jesus Christ.

JOHN MASEKA, Evangelist, Messenger Church of Christ Solwezi, S Central Africa



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