

**“The Great CO-Mission”**  
**December 14, 2014**

**Mark 16:9-20**

**CORE: Jesus, risen** (*“to waken, rouse from, coming completely out from under the control of, i.e., overcoming”*) **from the dead, gave His followers two clear challenges: “Believe Me!” and “Join Me in bringing My Kingdom to the world!”**

**1. BELIEVE ME**

- **Jesus’ strongest rebukes were given to His disciples RE: their “stubborn refusal to believe” Him.**
  - **“Hardness”- *harsh, offensive, tough, intolerable—completely resistant to altering one’s opinion (Root word: sclerosis—the stiffening of soft tissue)***
  - **“Of Heart”- the center of all activity; that which circulates throughout the whole being**
  - **A vastly different kind of unbelief (*apistia*): “Help me overcome my unbelief” (Mark 9:24)—*a desire for more faith amid a struggle to believe (i.e., “I won’t trust You” vs. “I want to trust You!”)***
- **Jesus had given them clear promises:**
  - **Mark 9:31- “...betrayed...they will kill Me...after 3 days...rise”**
  - **Mark 10:32-34- “Again...He told them...”**
  - **Mark 14:28- “After I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee”**
  - **BUT THEY STAYED IN JERUSALEM...Jesus met them there.**
- **Jesus sent them witnesses:**
  - **They refused to believe “the women” (limited view of women)**
  - **They refused to believe “the two men” who had seen Jesus in a “different form” (limited view of Jesus)**
  - **GOD WORKS THRU PEOPLE—in spite of the fact they’re HUMAN!**
  - **NOTE: Just like Jesus’ family members and His hometown of Nazareth, where He could only “heal a few”—we can become so familiar with Jesus—we FAIL TO SEE Him & EXPECT Him to move!**
- **Yet, there were those who DID believe:**
  - **Joseph of Arimathea (Mark 15:43)- “Waiting for...went boldly”**
  - **The “women”- 1<sup>st</sup> to go to tomb guarded by Romans (*who probably fled when the angel rolled the stone away*)**
  - **“The two” men on the road to Emmaus (initially reluctant, yet eventually came to receive Jesus “in a different form”)**
  - **These STOOD IN FAITH despite trauma, drama & disbelief!**

## 2. JOIN ME

***Summary of Jesus' ministry: "You yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:38 ESV)***

***Very clear COMMANDS ("not a suggestion—a call to join with"):***

- ***"GO"- ecclesia—an aggressive, culture changing company (NOTE: Why Rome expanded). "My Church"—and hell's highest authorities ("gates") cannot prevail!***
- ***"PREACH"- to proclaim openly—with gravity & authority***
- ***"GOSPEL"- announce life-altering news (Enemy defeated, new King)***
- ***"EXPECT DEMONSTRATIONS"- "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power!" (1 Corinthians 2:4)***
- ***"SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY"- attend; to surround you as a normal course of life [Lit.: Expect them...don't "exception" them..."eagerly desire"]***
  - ***New authority- no longer victims! See people released from the oppression of the enemy!***
  - ***New expression of honor, praise & intimacy- tames the tongue; impacts the course of our life***
  - ***"Take up serpents"- Lit.- to remove, set free***
    - ***Luke 10:19- "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."***
    - ***Literal for Paul in Acts 28, but the snake came to him...he didn't bring it into the meeting!***
  - ***New authority to heal- "Lay hands on"—to calmly place & powerfully assault***

### **RESPONSE:**

- ***"The Lord worked with them & confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it"—it's a co-mission!!!***
- ***Psalm 110:3- "Volunteer freely"—spontaneous response to believe and follow!!!***