

April 17, 2020

## Signs of His Love - Part 5

Mark 16:14a; 15, “Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Jesus again appears to His disciples and finds them enjoying a meal together. I’m sure they were in deep conversation about the fact that they had seen Jesus alive! The word was spreading and they probably also feared for their lives. If they would crucify Jesus, would they be next? But when Jesus shows up, He doesn’t tell them to lay low. In fact, just the opposite. He tells them to go into all the world and preach the gospel. This is the whole purpose for anyone who has trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior.

There is a beautiful old story that tells of how Jesus, after his Ascension into Heaven, was surrounded by the Holy Angels who began to inquire about his work on earth. Jesus told them about His birth, life, preaching, death and resurrection, and how he had accomplished the salvation for the world. The angel Gabriel asked, “Well, now that you are back in Heaven, who will continue your work on earth?” Jesus said, “While I was on earth, I gathered a group of 12 men around me who believed in me and loved me. They will continue to spread the Gospel and carry on the work of the Church.” Gabriel was perplexed. “You mean Peter, who denied you three times and all the rest who ran away when you were crucified? You mean to tell us that you left them to carry on your work? Hmm (Pause) what is plan B? And what will you do if this plan doesn’t work?” Jesus said, “I have no other plan — it must work.” Truly, Jesus has no other plan than to depend on the efforts of His followers! So that is the plan – it’s a plan that depends on you and me – a plan that depends on each of us – each of us using our talents and gifts and time and resources for the good of the Gospel. That can only happen as we follow the Master’s guidance in Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all: “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.”

Are you willing to follow Jesus? Are you willing to go and tell? I’ve heard this said before and it bears repeating - “Don’t say you would be willing to die for Jesus if you’re not willing to live for Him.” Let all who know Jesus not be ashamed of the gospel, but let us instead sound out the trumpet of salvation! Let us carry the message to all who will listen; our families; our neighbors; our friends; our co-workers; and the strangers that we meet. Everyone needs to hear the good news of the gospel.

Dear Father, help us to share the good news with everyone. It is the sole reason we are here. You have called us to be Your ambassadors to a world that is hopeless and lost. Give us the courage and strength to carry out Your calling and commission to go and tell the good news. In Jesus Name, Amen