

## **Mark 16:19-20 – Jesus Goes up, Disciples Go out**

Calvin, Expositors, Family, JFB, TSK, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Gill, Trapp, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Geneva, Henry, Maclaren, FFG, Clarke, Barnes Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Jesus did not come to establish a local kingdom as the Jews hoped he would.** He came to establish a worldwide kingdom. And **Jesus did not come to establish a physical kingdom as the Jews hoped he would.** He came to establish a spiritual kingdom. So with his task of dying on the cross completed, **he headed home, up to heaven** and he assigned people, whom he had trained, to go out and **establish a worldwide spiritual kingdom.** This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

**Jesus Goes up**

**Disciples Go out**

Our goals are: **That knowing Christ did all he came to do for you and has now returned to heaven, you will be motivated to go out and do the work your Savior has called you to do, the work of building his worldwide spiritual kingdom.**

### **Jesus Goes Up!**

19 So then, after the Lord had **spoken to them,** He was **received up into heaven,** and **sat** down at the **right hand of God.**

**1. Jesus did what he came to do: He was incarnate for you, he lived and obeyed for you, he was rejected and despised by the Jewish leadership for you, he was betrayed, abandoned, denied and tortured for you, he was innocently condemned for you, he was forsaken by the Father for you, he died for you and he rose again for you.**

And because Jesus was Divine, **he was able to endure these things for many and bring them into his kingdom.**

**2. The Lord then gave final words to his disciples before his departure for heaven.**

What were those words?

**He reminded them to go out, work for him, expand his kingdom, and bring others to worship him.** See the fuller record.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "**Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "**teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always,** even to the end of the age." Amen.

**3. The Lord told them he would equip them with his Holy Spirit to give them courage to do this great work.**

He knew they needed courage to face opposition. He knew they needed power to confirm

the words they spoke. (And he had all power in heaven and on earth!)

**Acts 1:8** "But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...

The Psalmist said Christ would take "captivity captive." (Ps 68, 110, Eph 4) Who was this Captivity? The Devil. He chained people. So Jesus conquered him and having done that, returned to his throne.

**Revelation 20:2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the **Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;**

After Jesus **restricted the Devil, (binding –chaining- the strong man), and he then gave his people many gifts, so his disciples could do the work he called them to do.**

#### **4. The Lord then blessed his disciples with a true blessing.**

This showed Jesus was the pure high priest.

**Luke 24:50** And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and **blessed them.**

#### **5. The Lord then went up into heaven 40 days after his resurrection, a Thursday.**

#### **6. The Lord then sat down at the right hand of the Father**

The Bible records **Jesus in heaven sitting down at least 10 times (a picture of rest).** When work is done, you sit. The cross was behind him. There was no more need to make sacrifices.

From there **he would rule the world.**

**Ephesians 1:20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. 22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

From there **he would watch over his people.** (Psalm 91)

From there **he would shower his people with his blessings.** (Psalm 68, Ephesians 4). He gave them pastors, teachers, prophets, etc. He gave them the Word and Sacraments to continue to feed them. He provided elders and deacons to watch over their souls.

From there **he would pray for his people,** making intercessions to the Father for them.

**Romans 8:34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also

**makes intercession for us.**

**So Christ's ascension into heaven was not simply a nice conclusion to the story** as when you finish reading a fairy-tale to your children and say: "And they lived happily ever after." He continues to work and so do his people.

**7. As the disciples stood there watching this amazing event of Christ going up into heaven, angels appeared and spoke to them.**

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, **two men stood by them in white apparel**, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, **why do you stand gazing up into heaven?** This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

**These two angels made the testimony 3-fold, reinforcing Christ's words.**

Also, the angels did not take the Lord up into heaven as some people believe and teach.

**8. The Lord's ascension gave great joy to his disciples.**

Luke 24:51 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped Him, and **returned to Jerusalem with great joy**, 53 and were continually in the temple **praising and blessing God**. Amen.

They rejoiced that Jesus had **completed his mission**, he had **equipped them for their mission**, and that **he would come back** when their mission was completed to take them to heaven.

**8. Lessons:**

**a. Your Lord, Savior, and friend is at the right hand of the Father.** Whatever you need, go to him. He can do it! Wife troubles? Heart troubles? Sin trouble? Sore throat? Lacking zeal? Worry? In-grown toenail? Child troubles? Go to him. Afraid of the future? Your children's future? Take advantage of Jesus' position! Go to him. He delights that you would come to him.

**b. The Lord did not leave you to conquer the world by yourself or in your own strength.** He will help you just as he helped his disciples. He gave his Word, Sacraments, and his Holy Spirit to help you. He gave you his church. He gave you teachers. So work without fear. And **don't fight in detached parties**. Go and ask for help! Of course you must always remember the limits of your ability! Your responsibility is to speak the truth. And let God work.

**c. When your Lord went to heaven he took his humanity with him. This is a guarantee**

**that your humanity will go to heaven one day.** You can say this was a down payment!  
When Christ finished sacrificing himself, he could enter into glory

### **Disciples Go Out!**

20 And they **went out and preached everywhere,** the Lord **working with them** and confirming the word through the **accompanying signs.** **Amen.**

#### **1. The disciples, in obedience to their Lord in Acts 1:8, went everywhere and to everyone and preached.**

This was God's plan all along to include all nations, even those "filthy" Gentiles! God always planned to bring in the nations. He saved **Jethro,** the Midianite, **Rahab the Canaanite,** **Caleb,** **Jael,** **Nebuchadnezzar,** the **Ninevites,** **Ruth** the Moabitess, and many others. And he prophesied this through David and the prophets...many prophets.

**Isaiah 2:3** **Many people** shall come and say, "Come, and **let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob;** He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." **For out of Zion shall go forth the law,** and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

The disciples preached about God, man's fall into sin, Christ's coming to fulfill the covenant for man by living and dying for him, and that those who embraced Jesus would have eternal life, and those who rejected him would be damned forever.

#### **2. There are some other things to note about their going out to conquer the world with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

##### **a. They went out knowing they were merely workers of God with no intrinsic abilities within them.**

**1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are God's fellow workers; **you are God's field, you are God's building.**

##### **b. They went out and made disciples of all the nations, not "in" all the nations.**

**c. They went out and baptized those who believed, showing their incorporation into the body of Christ.** This is what happened with the Ethiopian Eunuch and the Philippian jailer in Acts 8, etc.

##### **d. They went out and taught converts the Word of God so converts would know how to live and how to grow in grace.**

**e. They went out and spoke in the authority of Jesus' name.** Jesus commands the world to listen and respond. Jesus had all authority in heaven and on earth, so he could pass his authority to his disciples.

**f. They went out boldly, without fear.** There was no ground for fear or uncertainty. Yes, we know this was the work of God **because prior to this and after the crucifixion, the**

disciples were hiding in fear, but being empowered by Christ's word and Spirit, they became bold.

### 3. The disciples' word they preached was confirmed with signs.

Hebrews 2:4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

No wonder they "turned the world upside down." No one had seen anything like this before!

### 4. However, it took a persecution to move them to go out Jerusalem and spread the Gospel of Jesus.

Acts 8:1... At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

### 5. The disciples were to keep going out with the Gospel until the Lord returns.

They were to bring those in the highways and by-ways...so they could come into the feast of God. There was no time-off in conquering the world.

"Amen" meant that that was the desire of the writer.

### 6. Lessons:

a. The work of conquering the nations is incomplete. You are Jesus' disciples. Continue his work.

How are you carrying out this commission as Christian officers? Are you working for the conversion of sinners? Are you working for the comfort of the saints?

b. Doctrines always go before the signs. Those who use signs as a basis of belief confuse the Gospel. Further, you don't have to "do" signs. You have a record of hundreds of signs in the most reliable book in the world. Refer to these signs. Signs were only temporary.

c. The Lord will reward the faithful going out to spread the Gospel!

1Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

### Conclusion:

Jesus' work was done: He was born, lived, suffered, died, and rose again so he could destroy sin. Man was liberated from sin. So he went up to heaven. From there he rules, equips, and protects his people. He sends gifts. He prays for his people. He protects his people. Now he sends out his people to take the Gospel to every nation.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Thank God for all he has done for you on the cross and on Resurrection Sunday. Thank

God he has adopted you and secured your future for eternity!

**2. Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere and promote a worldwide spiritual kingdom.** Let the world know he came, lived, died, and rose against for sinners. Let them know that he will come for them one day if they put their trust in him! Let them know he will judge them one day if they reject him.

Finally, do you want Jesus to come and take you to heaven or if you die before he returns to raise you up and give you a new body and take you to heaven? Ask him. He will do it. Don't do it and you will spend eternity in hell!