

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
 Title: Making Disciples
 Scriptures: Mark 16:14-20

(Mark 16:14-20)

14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 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. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

INTRODUCTION: Unbelief and Hardness of Heart (Stubbornness) – V. 14

- Sinners are not the only people with unbelief and hardness of heart (stubbornness).
- This condition is also found in believers - both now and in Jesus' time
- Jesus "upbraided" (KJV) or rebuked the 11 disciples
- They had spent much time with Jesus but unbelief and hardness of heart was found in them
- They rejected the testimony of His resurrection (Mark 15:9-13)

Consider this hymn: "Search me, O God and know my heart today; Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray; See if there be, some wicked way in me: Cleanse me from every sin and set me free"

THE ROOT CAUSE

The root cause is the misinterpretation of Scripture or what Jesus said

(Luke 24:44-45)

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

- We hear, see and believe what we want and not what is said, shown and meant.
 e.g. We did say and see, but that was not all said and shown, and that was not the only meaning.

The Root Causes:

- The disciples refused to believe Jesus was to be a Savior but a conquering king.

(Luke 1:32-33)

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

(John 1:49)

Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

- The disciples refused to see the Kingdom of God as a spiritual kingdom operated by spiritual laws but rather as a physical kingdom, or a natural organization that is earthly, and by earthly and natural laws.

(John 18:36-37)

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was

born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

(Matthew 20:20-21)

20 Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. 21 And He said to her, “What do you wish?” She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”

- When confronted by spiritual evidence – healing and miracle, it is said to be done by the power of Beelzebub – the prince of the devil.
- The disciples refused to see death and resurrection as literal and real rather than symbolic.

(Matthew 16:21-23)

21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” 23 But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

CONCLUSION

Unbelief and hardness of heart is unacceptable and inexcusable.

- Hardness of heart or stubbornness is due to the deceitfulness of sin

(Hebrews 3:13)

“but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”

(Proverbs 29:1)

“He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

- Unbelief will cause you to be condemned

(John 3:18)

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” The wrath of God abides on him

(John 3:36)

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Unbelief and hardness of heart must be dealt with before you can make disciples