

Meditation 5

MARK 16:15-20

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature.”

He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents [with their hands], and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

Points for Meditation

- 1) “. . . He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. . .” (Mk 16:15)
- 2) “They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mk. 16:18)
 - a. St. Gregory the Great says that the art of all arts is Spiritual Direction. Here is the exact quote: “No one presumes to teach an art till he has first, with intent meditation, learnt it. What rashness is it, then, for the unskillful to assume pastoral authority since the government of souls is the art of arts!” (*The Book of Pastoral Rule: Saint Gregory the Great*, Roman Pontiff, to John, Bishop of the City of Ravenna. In P. Schaff & H. Wace (Eds.), J. Barmby (Trans.), *Leo the Great, Gregory the Great* (Vol. 12b, p. 1). New York: Christian Literature Company.)
 - b. The “government of souls” is an old-fashioned way of saying Spiritual Direction, Accompaniment, Mentoring.
- 3) “. . . while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.” (Mk. 16:20)

