

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to the gospel of John 20

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John –

And for the past couple of weeks, we have been looking at the Resurrection and how it impacted the lives of the followers of Jesus

In our study this morning – Jesus is going to have an encounter with His disciples – for three days, their lives were turned upside down, in their eyes – hope was lost, they had no purpose – they were living in fear – they had lost the presence of their best friend – the one they knew as their Messiah

And through this encounter – we will how Jesus comes to them (and us as well) and fills every one of those needs.

Let's pray...

Read Text -

In Isaiah 61

**[Isa 61:1 NKJV] 1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon Me (speaking of Jesus),  
Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has**

**sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to [those who are] bound;**

The greatest event in human history is the resurrection of Jesus Christ

And the result of the resurrection of Jesus Christ – has been transforming and conforming

Because it is the power of the Holy Spirit, to do that work that will change a man or a woman from within

To change an individual, no matter how sinful, no matter how filthy into a Child of God

And this is the Good News

That is something that needs to be shared,

That is something that needs to be proclaimed

Back a few chapters in John 14 –

Jesus made this promise -

**[Jhn 14:16 NKJV] 16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—**

And then a little later – in John 16

**[Jhn 16:7 NKJV] 7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**

As someone who has put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we really can't but proclaim what He has done to us and for us.

That is what we find Peter doing in the book Acts

We see Paul do the same thing as the Holy Spirit led him to proclaim the message of the Good News to the Gentiles and even before kings.

What about the two disciples that Jesus walked alongside on the road to Emmaus

For seven miles they walked besides Him – without recognizing Him


The were bummed, they were leaving Jerusalem as if there was no more hope

Jesus is dead

His body is missing

Some of the women said they saw angels

They didn't know what was going on and Jesus rebukes them and reminds them that the Messiah was supposed to be a suffering Messiah / Jesus breaks bread with them and then their eyes are opened

**[Luk 24:32-35 NKJV] 32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn  within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those [who were] with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 And they told about the things [that had happened] on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.**

They told everybody – why?

Because they had been touched by the resurrected Christ

In our study last week – John provided us with the details of Mary Magdalene’s encounter with the resurrected Christ

Jesus commands her to do something –

He says, go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

And she went and told the disciples, not only that she had seen the Risen Lord but she also told them everything that Jesus had said to her.

And as I mentioned last week – in the other gospel accounts we find that the disciples didn’t believe.

Our natural response is to proclaim the good news – but it doesn't mean that everyone is going to receive it

I was rebuked by a cousin when I got home and shared the good news to him

I was rebuked by coworkers who said to me – “I can't believe you fell for it” – apparently, my boss Ed Pena had been sharing the good news to others at work.

Church – don't miss the point.

### **It is a fact, that the power of the resurrection transforms lives**

The question that we all must ask ourselves is – “whether or not - our life has been transformed?”

Have we had an encounter with the risen Christ?

So now - John, continues to give us examples of how the power of the resurrection can change lives

**[Jhn 20:19-23 NKJV] 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first [day] of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace [be] with you."**

It was now Sunday evening—the disciples were gathered together -

It has been a long day –

News had come to them from Mary Magdalen that she had seen the risen Christ

Not only that but – the other gospels tell us that another group of women had seen the risen Lord and had come to tell them

As we just saw earlier in our study – the two disciples on the road to Emmaus had seen the risen and had come to tell them

But instead of celebrating, instead of rejoicing – we find the disciples locked in a room – being fearful.

Why were they living in fear –

Because of what had happened to Jesus

In their mind, they came after Jesus – now, they are coming after them

In Matthews' gospel –

He tells us that the religious rulers – when they got word that the tomb was empty – they bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples had taken the body

So the disciples are waiting for the knock on the door

I had you make a note that the doors were shut

Because the tense of the word for shut in the Greek indicates that the doors were shut and they were going to stay shut – and they were still shut when the next events happened.

And so, Jesus as the disciples are shivering in fear – He shows up and stood in their midst.

BTW – this is something that Jesus had done before –

Remember – when the disciples were caught in the storm on the boat -

Church – when we are in the storms – that is when Jesus comes to us and He speaks peace to that storm.

Some of us have stormed hearts, we are full of anxiety, worry and trouble – and the Lord has come to speak peace to our hearts

Jesus came to reassure them – and there He is – in the midst of them

All of a sudden, He appears before them and says, shalom

It's interesting that the first thing the Lord said to His disciples as they were gathered together behind closed doors on the evening of His resurrection was—“Peace be with you!”

He didn't say “joy be with you”

He didn't say “grace be with you”

He didn't say "love be with you"—

He said, "Peace be with you"—

why peace and not the others?

The most obvious reason is that they were afraid –

The religious rulers were after them

But also, Luke tells us that when Jesus appeared in their midst – that they thought He was a spirit/ghost.

But it goes beyond that –

In Isaiah -

**[Isa 9:6 NKJV] 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

In Luke's gospel – when the angel makes the announcement of the birth of the Messiah to the shepherds –

**[Luk 2:14 NKJV] 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"**

Some might say, but pastor – there is no peace on this earth



There is peace in those hearts that have received the Prince of Peace

It is a peace that surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:6)

It is a peace that this world cannot give or a peace that this world cannot take away.

There is peace – and it is only found in Jesus

**[Jhn 16:33 NKJV] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."**

Notice, Jesus didn't promise that He would give us peace by taking away all the problems and all the pain that we will be exposed to in life —as He said, "In the world you will have tribulation..."

But He promised to give us a supernatural peace during or in the midst of the turmoil, tragedies, pain and persecutions that we would experience in this life as we live in this fallen world

And we have access to this peace through the cross

Turn to Ephesians 2

**[Eph 2:13-18 NKJV] 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15**

having abolished in His flesh the enmity, [that is], the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man [from] the two, [thus] making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

So Jesus came and He died on the cross so that we may have peace with God and also experience the peace of God

Notice – He doesn't rebuke them for abandoning Him in the garden of Gethsemane.

He doesn't condemn them for being a bunch of cowards

So Jesus came to His disciples to reassure them – that everything is ok

**20 When He had said this, He showed them [His] hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.**

Turn to Luke 24 – Luke provides a little more insight on what is happening here -

**[Luk 24:36-43 NKJV] 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not**

have flesh and bones as you see I have." 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took [it] and ate in their presence.

Jesus appeared to His disciples so that they would all know for sure that He had risen from the dead—He Himself, the crucified Jesus was now the risen Lord—that it was really Him!

He came in the room through the locked door

Remember, the rolling away of the stone on the front of the tomb was not so Jesus could escape – it was for the disciples to go in and verify that He had risen

He's not just some spirit, He's got a real body.

That is why He invites them to see for themselves to see the scars

That is why He asks them – "What's for dinner?"

Why was it so important that Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection?

It was important because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central doctrine of the Christian faith.

**[Rom 10:9 NKJV] 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

I want you to notice –

That even though Jesus is now risen from the dead

And even though He has a new improved body that can walk through walls – He still bears the wounds from the cross.

**[Rev 5:6 NKJV] 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

**[Zec 12:10 NKJV] 10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for [his] only [son], and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**

When we die and when we get our resurrected bodies - we'll attain just the perfect age & condition that will be the epitome of what God created us for.

In other words, the effects of living in this fallen world will not be resident in our new bodies.

We'll be the height and weight we were created to be.

We'll have perfect eyesight & hearing.

Smooth skin, good hair, perfect posture, bodies that are perfectly proportioned to our right shape.

Not a blemish will remain – no scars – perfect health

The only one who'll carry His scars to glory is Jesus – so that we might all remember eternally how we got to be there!

To remind us of the price that He paid for our peace with God

**21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."**

Here in verse 21 –

Jesus repeats to His disciples – something that He had told them three days earlier in the upper room discourse – that they were going to be the ones that would continue the work – not by their own might, but by the power of the Holy Spirit

But notice that before Jesus gives the commission again, He tells them again, “peace to you”

You have the peace of God that we talked about earlier -

The one that Paul talks about in Rom 5:1

**[Rom 5:1 NKJV] 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

But then we have the peace of God

And in order to do God's work – we need the peace of God

And so Jesus here gives them and us this mandate / this commission to proclaim to the world the good news.

We have the good news of hope – a light in the darkness - that man can be reconciled with his Creator, that man can be restored

Imagine the joy they had as Jesus looked past their failures

Jesus looked past their denials – as Peter was there

He looked past their desertion

He looked past their immaturities, their mistakes

And Jesus entrusts to them, His word and His work

To a bunch of hillbillies from Galilee

In just a few short weeks after this – Peter is going to stand before the Jews and accuse them of denying the Lord – (Peter, the one who denied the Lord three times a few days earlier)

But God's forgiveness is so amazing

Because when God forgives, God forgets

Not only does Jesus come to reassure them – He also comes to enable them

**[1Timothy 1:12 NKJV] 12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting [me] into the ministry,**

**22 And when He had said this, He breathed on [them], and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.**

This is very reminiscent of something that happened in the Garden of Eden –

**[Gen 2:7 NKJV] 7 And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

However, when Adam sinned – that breath was taken away – sort to speak

He would die, because he had sinned and death came upon all the world

And now, life is restored by Jesus' breath into His disciples

I believe that right here in this verse – is the birth of the church

These disciples were born again

**[Eph 1:13 NKJV] 13 In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

**23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the [sins] of any, they are retained."**

Here in verse 23 – we have one of those scripture – that if it is not read in context, people can and have taken it to mean something that it is not

They will say that the power to forgive sin or not to forgive sin is what is given to a select few

That is not what Jesus is saying

The key to understanding the meaning of John 20:23 lies in the previous two verses:

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’

And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

He sent them, as He is sending us, to bring the good news of the way to salvation and heaven to the whole world.

Jesus was leaving the earth physically but promised God would be with them in the person of the Holy Spirit living in them.



As they proclaimed the gospel, they could honestly tell people who believed in that message that their sins were forgiven, and they could honestly tell people that did not believe in the message that their sins were not forgiven and that they stand condemned in God's eyes.

So I see in our text a few things that Jesus gives to His disciples and gives to us

- He gives us His presence – What would we do without the presence of the Lord?

*I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,*

*I will fear no evil;*

*For You are with me;*

*Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

There is nothing like the presence of the Lord – He is in our presence - He comes to live inside of us.

- He gives us His peace – What would we do without His peace – that surpasses all understanding. We don't have to lean upon our own understanding – we can simply trust the Lord with all our heart and know that He will bring it to pass. He gives us Both the peace with God and the peace of God
- He gives us purpose – He gives us a mission – to share the good news. As the Father sent Him, He sends us – with His anointing and His power
- He gives us a Companion – the Comforter

- He gives us the message of forgiveness – oh - what a message we have to give to this world, that God has forgiven them and they can be right with God. So we can say to individuals that come to the Lord – your sins have been blotted out according to the Word of the Lord – but it is through His power.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

**[Mat 5:6 NKJV] 6 Blessed [are] those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.**

The prerequisite is – do we hunger, do we thirst, do we desire

God is not going to force Himself upon anyone

If we really want the things He has to give – then He invites us to come and seek Him with our whole heart and He will pour out His Spirit upon us, He will bless us and we will be filled.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'