

So Send I You
Sunday, March 31, 2024
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

John 20:1-31

- 1 The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher.
- 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him.
- 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher.
- 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter and came first to the sepulcher.
- 5 And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.
- 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and seeth the linen clothes lie,
- 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.
- 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed.
- 9 For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.
- 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.
- 11 But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulcher,
- 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.
- 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.
- 14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.
- 15 Jesus saith unto her, *Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?* She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.
- 16 Jesus saith unto her, *Mary*. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.
- 17 Jesus saith unto her, *Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*
- 18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.
- 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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, *Peace be unto you.*

20 And when he had so said, he showed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

23 **Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.**

24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace, be unto you.**

27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

After the crucifixion, Jesus is quickly wrapped in new linen and placed in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, who was one of the council members.

He is described as a good man and just; Luke tells us that he did not give consent to what was done to Jesus.

The huge stone, which sits, today, up on Mt. Nebo, is rolled into its place and sealed by the guard appointed to watch over the tomb.

The guard is appointed so that no one could come steal Jesus' body and then claim that He is risen from the dead.

As we already know, Jesus rose, alright! After three days and three nights, Jesus vacated the tomb without rolling the stone away.

Later that same day at evening, Jesus appeared to the assembly of His disciples, where they were meeting in secret.

To this little Church, that Jesus built Himself, who were not all present at the time, Jesus begins preparing them for what is to come.

For the next forty days, Jesus meets with His Church, preparing them and equipping them to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Salvation is finished, just like Jesus said it on the cross; but the Master's plan to bring that salvation to the world has only just begun.

Jesus is going away; He is going back to heaven where He belongs; where because of Him, WE belong!

The task of taking the gospel into all the world is something they were not equipped for; it was something far beyond their power or strength.

In forty days, Jesus prepared, equipped, and empowered His Church for this monumental task. Today we will examine some of the key events of this amazing forty days.

After greeting His Church with "peace be unto you" His first words give them their mission; **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

Upon stating this:

I. He gave them His Spirit.

A. Jesus' first act of preparing His Church was to fulfill something He promised to each individual believer.

1. **John 20:22** And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**
2. This fulfilled one of the promises Jesus made earlier on.

B. Now for the first time, the Spirit of God actually indwells the believer.

1. John 14:12-17

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

2. Today, when men place their trust in Christ, they receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God.

3. **Romans 8:9-11**

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

4. As you can see, without the Holy Spirit in us, we are but powerless for the Kingdom.

Next:

II. He gave them authority.

A. This business of authority may be the biggest issue of controversy among Christians today.

1. "You can't tell me what to do; only Jesus tells me what to do".

2. "We'll just go start our own Church".

3. "We're all the Church; so we have just as much authority as you do."

4. "We can teach whatever doctrine we want to."

5. I understand that our sinful nature causes us to dislike being under authority, but that doesn't make it OK; it is still sin to rebel against God-ordained authority.

6. Whether it be children against their parents; or the police or the judge or the government or your Church...to rebel is still sin.

B. Take a look at the authority Jesus placed in His Church.

1. **John 20:23** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

2. **1 Corinthians 5:4-5**

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

3. **Matthew 16:18-19**...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

4. There's more; a lot more.

C. Only a real Church has Jesus' authority.

1. When Jesus came into the room where the disciples were assembled the same day of the resurrection; they were not all of them present.

2. Eight days later Jesus met them again; this time with Thomas present.

3. **John 20:26-29**

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **Peace, be unto you.**

27 Then saith he to Thomas, **Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.**

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**

29 Jesus saith unto him, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: *blessed are they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.***

4. Next Jesus meets with them in Galilee.

5. **Matthew 28:16-20**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted. [Thomas was obviously not the only one who doubted].

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power [Gr. Exousia = authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

20 **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

6. It is a well-known fact that beat cops in Great Britain, for the most part, do not carry firearms.

They have authority, but they lack tremendously in power.

Next; Jesus did not just give His Church authority:

III. He gave them power.

A. To understand the doctrine of the Church; our commission; our job and your part in it...there are some helpful facts you should know.

1. The Lord's Church did not begin after the resurrection; Jesus built it and it had been fully functional for nearly three years.

2. Luke 6:12-13

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

3. **1Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles...

4. In those forty days after the resurrection, Jesus met with His Church on many occasions.

5. We have already read of three separate occasions; there were many more.

1Corinthians 15:3-8

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

B. Jesus empowered His Church by baptizing them in His Holy Spirit.

1. Acts 1:1-11

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.**

5 **For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, 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 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

2. The promise of power in verse 8 is not the same kind of power that Jesus gave them in **Matthew 28:18**.

3. That Greek word is Exousia , It means authority.

4. This one is different, this Greek word is **dunamis**

doo'-nam-is

From **G1410**; *force* (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous *power* (usually by implication a *miracle* itself): - ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work.

5. Jesus not only gave them authority, He gave them the strength and ability to get it done.

IV. He gave them a promise.

A. **Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. In the last part of the Great Commission, Jesus commanded His Church to teach the ones they win and baptize, all the things He commanded them.

2. And then He promised them His presence “**even unto the end of the world**”.

3. This causes us to consider several things:

a. These eleven men, even though disciples of the Lord and the Elders of the first and only Church in existence; would not make it to the end of the world; they would all die.

b. We understand that Jesus is not speaking to them as individual Christians, but rather as His Church, which they represent.

c. As we observe the Bible pattern of future Churches being developed, we see that Churches come from Churches, each inheriting the authority and the strength of her mother Church.

4. When men go out and start churches without proper authority, regardless of how they look or even how well-intended the founders of such might be, these are not real Churches.

5. This explains the thousands of so-called churches preaching works for salvation and other false doctrines.

6. These are explained in Scripture in

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Conclusion:

So, was Jesus' plan a success?

The results say it was!

WE ARE HERE, nearer than ever to the end of the world; still preaching the same gospel, still perpetuating new and more Churches, still practicing the same ordinances, still teaching the same doctrine...just like Jesus promised!

I am proud and thankful to be a part of what Jesus set in motion the very day He rose from the dead!