

Experiencing The Power of His Resurrection

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Bible Text: John 20:11-20; Philippians 3:10

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Now let's join our hearts in prayer.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy, we praise thy name this day. We thank thee, Lord, for this glorious day, a day to thy people, Lord, of great truth. A day to thy people, Lord of great rejoicing. Oh, Lord, thy Son is alive. Thy Son is reigning. Oh, Lord, I pray wholeheartedly that thou would send thy Spirit now, this hour, that thou would awaken us, that thou would fill our souls with the joy that only thou can give, that you would be pleased, Lord, to give me an unction this morning to speak thy Word and, Lord, that thou would anoint that unction with thy power. Lord, that thou would have the ground prepared this day for thou hast indeed done the work to the glory of thy name. I ask, oh Lord, that thou would search us this hour and see if there be, reveal thyself to each one of thy children this day and life that thou hast for each and every one. Oh, Lord, may it be real this day. May thy life emanate in this place today and, Lord, may thy... may thee fill this place with yourself. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

The gospel of Luke has it that, "He is not here, but is risen."¹

The gospel of Matthew says, "He is not here: for he is risen."²

I wonder this morning as you woke from your bed, as you woke from your sleep, as you came here today did you come with the anticipation, did you come with a life in the Lord Jesus Christ, that he is risen?

That is what I want to talk about today. Not something that definitely happened in history, but is it something that has happened in your life?

I can't answer that question for you today nor will I sit in judgment whether it has or has not. It is an answer that the Lord must answer to you today. It is a question that searches the heart of every child of God.

¹ Luke 24:6.

² Mathew 28:6.

Am I yours, Lord? If I am, do I experience, do I understand what the power of the resurrection is?

That is my prayer this morning.

We will begin today our journey in John 20 verse 20. And it may seem to be kind of an odd place to begin today, but hopefully as the Spirit is willing, as the Spirit opens our eyes this morning we will understand why this is so important.

In John 20 verse 20 the words read this way.

“And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.”³

The disciples had waited. The disciples had been fearful. But the Lord revealed himself to them and as he stood in front of them he showed them his hands. He showed them his side and then and only then were the disciples glad.

Now we do not have the Lord Jesus Christ standing before us today. We do not have him physically as they had him physically. But we do have him experimentally. That is the question this morning. Do you see the Lord Jesus Christ and are you glad? Are you glad this day to see him that he is risen? Are you glad?

And “glad” is a word that means exceeding happiness, exceeding happiness, not just a notional thought, not just a yes I know that Jesus is risen, no let’s go today where the people of God meet and we will talk about the is risen.

That is not what I am talking about. That is not what the Word here in the power of the Spirit will apply to your soul.

Do you see him? The disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Do you see him today high and lifted up? Do you see him raising and defeating all of the enemies that we have heard about since Friday?

What a beautiful program that was in our school, what a Christ exalting program that was to look and to hear of how the Lord Jesus Christ has defeated Satan. He has defeated death. He has defeated the grave. He has conquered sin. He is the end of the law.

The bondage of the law just rolls off the back of the child of God when he sees his risen Savior.

See, I can’t make you see. The pastor here can’t make you see it. The elders who preach the Word of God, they can’t make you see it, because it is only one who opens the eyes of his people. It is the power of the Holy Ghost to show you what it means that he is risen, what it means to be exceedingly glad, what it means to see the Lord.

³ John 20:20.

In Hebrews the apostle Paul wrote, “But we see Jesus.”⁴

Today is not—as I have come here today I passed a couple of churches. And on those churches, of course, it is that time of year that they go and they take a big cross and they put it in the front of their lawn. And many people today on this day that the world says it is time to go to church will pass by a church like that and they will say, “Certainly this is a church that will talk about the cross today. Let me go and pull in there because they have got a cross out in the front yard.”

But to the children of God today, today the child of God on this day, on the Lord’s day, on the day that he has set apart to rejoice in the gospel truth that he is risen. It is not a day about the cross. It is not a day about our sin being pinned on the cross. What a glorious day that was. But this is the day that he rose from the dead. This isn’t a day about death. It is a day about life and the life in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We will come back here today, Lord willing, but right now I would like you to turn to Philippians three verse 10.

Paul, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit greatly upon the apostle Paul. These words is what we are talking about today.

In verse 10 of Philippians three Paul says, “That I may know him.”⁵

Paul saw Jesus Christ, but he understood Jesus Christ. His heart was open to Jesus Christ. His mind, it was not a notional thought.

“That I might know him.”⁶

Know him means the power of the Lord working in his heart to reveal himself. That is the question today. Do you walk in the resurrection and the newness of life today in what Christ has done? Or is it just a notional thought?

To the apostle Paul it wasn’t. He said, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection.”⁷

What is the power of his resurrection? It is not an emotion. Every child of God experimentally must feel the power of the resurrection, but it is not a feeling. It is a power. That is why the apostle Paul used these words, because as God himself would describe the resurrection in the child of God, it is a passing from death. It is a hallelujah what a Savior. It is the power to see a resurrected Lord.

⁴ Hebrews 2:9.

⁵ Philippians 3:10.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

We don't see the holes in his hands. We don't see the holes in his feet or the hole in his side. But we see Jesus today just as powerfully in the year 2011 today because we see it by faith. We see it by the faith that is the gift of God to every one of his dear children, to awake them from sloth, to awake them from their selves and to resurrect them as he was resurrected.

Oh the deadness. You must mourn the deadness. I mourn the deadness every week. To mourn the very thought that I don't see him, that my sin has overwhelmed me. And I have experienced that this week. I experienced that Friday in the day that we heard those words out there. There was an overcoming guilt to me about my sin being the reason of him being on the cross.

And reading and just hearing some of the things that even our young children have experienced.

"What a wretch I am," they say. What a wretch, but that is what the child of God is first shown. How else, why else would we need a Savior? Why else would this day be glorious to us? And that is the question. As you sit in that seat today. Is it glorious to you? The world in all of what is going on outside these doors today cannot rob the child of God to what the meaning of this day is.

And, yes, we do walk in the newness of life every day of our life.

But the Lord has set aside this day. Argue what you will, but it is a day that has been set aside to remember. How can we remember without him? How can we now this morning sit in here and bleed and mourn and have joy over this risen Lord unless we are anointed, unless we are lifted up away from ourselves to see him? That is what Paul said.

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection."⁸

It is the power of the resurrection that turns us from our deadness in our life. It is the power of the Lord's resurrection that turns us from ourselves. And it is the power of the resurrection that turns us from the fear of death, turns us from the very clutches of the grave. It is the power of the resurrection.

The apostle Paul said, "That I may know him, and the power."⁹

What a desire, a fervent desire. Is that your desire today? Do you come here today just to get the day over? Is it just a day that you say, "Yes, it is and yes he is risen?"

Is it a head knowledge? Because we all know it with our head. We have all been taught it. But what saith the Lord to thee today? Do you know the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings?

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

The Lord... I looked across this group of people and I can hardly see any that the Lord has not caused to suffer? Do you hear what I am saying? The Lord in his love has caused to suffer. Why? That you may partake in his suffering. Not out of hatred, not out of what we would hear of being chastisement for our sins.

But Hebrews once again tells us it is out of love. Out of love we see and we have the fellowship of his sufferings. This being made conformable unto his death.

Do you long to be conformed unto his death? I have been reading for quite a long time now, about a month. I have been reading one named J J West. What a gospel preacher he was back in the 1800s in Sussex in England. What a Christ centered ministry.

Do you know? He said something. He said the most profitable doctrine he ever preached, the most profitable doctrine that he has ever put in front of his people is the doctrine of death.

You say, "Well, I don't want to talk about that."

But not death as the world would exalt death. Not death as Satan would use death, but how the Lord has talked about death throughout the Word of God, being made conformable unto his death. And what a victory it is, what Christ has done, what Christ has risen to be a victory over death that we, as the people of God would not have the power of death over us anymore and the specter of death.

"Death, where is your victory? Where is the victory for the grave? Where is thy sting?"

It has been taken away by the Lord Jesus Christ. And for the people of God to be conformed unto his death, this is walking in the newness, in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the power of the resurrection that that death has no more power over us.

Let's now go to John 11. We know what is here. John 11 verse 25.

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection."¹⁰

What do those words mean to you today? Jesus said them. he said them to one of his dear children. Does he say it to you this morning?

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life."¹¹

See, this resurrection has the power of life with it as was shown in this account when he raised Lazarus from the dead. Even though Lazarus when he was raised from the dead he came forth and what did he have on him? Bondage. The bondage of the grave clothes.

¹⁰ John 11:25.

¹¹ Ibid.

But until we hear the voice of the shepherd, until we hear live it, until we are empowered to life, we will always be in that bondage.

But when the Lord said, “Lazarus, come forth,” and those grave clothes fell off of him, that is a symbol of the bondage of the child of God, of death, the law, all of those things that the Lord risen defeated, put them under his feat.

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”¹²

And then the searching question: “Beleivest thou this?”¹³

Not with your head. We all believe it with our head. Has it been worked in your soul? Is it a soul language to you? Does it speak to your soul today? When Jesus says, “Believest thou this?”¹⁴ and you want to jump out of your chair and say, “Yes, Lord, I believe, but help my unbelief. You see, there is still a struggle going on in me, Lord, but greater is he and greater is he that started this work that brought that notion into your mind to say, “Yes, Lord, I believe,” because you will finish it. And he will help that unbelief and he will show you the power of the resurrection and the power of the life.

“Believest thou this?”¹⁵

I tell you, one of the biggest dangers before we return to our text. I read this last night to the children and that comes in 1 Corinthians 15:19 and you don't have to turn there. I will read it, but if you do that is fine. Paul in this whole section in 1 Corinthians 15 is speaking on the power of the resurrection, the necessity of the resurrection. And in verse 19 he says this.

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ...”¹⁶

If you sit in that seat today and you only notionally know the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, if you sit there today and you only know the hope, the hope meaning I hope he is alive. I hope he is reigning. I hope that he conquered death. I hope he did these things for me.

Paul says something remarkable.

You say, “Well, that is a good place to be, this hope.”

No. The child of God has a living hope. It is an assurance.

¹² John 11:25-26.

¹³ John 11:26.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 15:19.

Paul says, "If in this life," while here today as you came to this place today, you knew that the Lord had risen, but he hasn't spoken it to you, he hasn't spoken it to your soul, just to your head. And if that is where you are, Paul said, "We are of all men most miserable."¹⁷

Back in 17 he said of Christ, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."¹⁸

See, that is where misery is. You are yet in your sins. You haven't been shown that he has dominion, that he reigns and that he reigns with power and that he reigns with love.

And now I hope, now I believe we can turn back to our text in John chapter 20.

Instead of going back to verse 20 we will begin in verse 11. There is great instruction in these verses, great power of the Holy Ghost I pray this morning that he would reveal to his children what these words mean experimentally, because we have all been there. I hope you can say that today. I hope that the Holy Spirit as these words come he searches your heart and he says, "Thou art the man."¹⁹

You have been where Mary is. You have been where these disciples are. And now here you are. You see the Lord.

Beginning in verse 11.

"But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre."²⁰

The very first meeting we have this morning with Mary is as she is looking in to the tomb not his glorious day. It doesn't seem to be too glorious to her and maybe that is the case to some of you in here. Maybe the weight of sin is so much upon you this morning that you don't see the power of the resurrection. Maybe you sit outside the open tomb and you weep. Maybe the weeping is because you know that this spot remains. Maybe it is because of the unbelief that you know that resides in your heart. Maybe it is because you know what a wretched sinner you have been in the last 24 hours not to mention your life.

"But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping."²¹

And that is what the child of God does when the cross is so powerfully upon him. When the apostle Paul said, "We preach the cross, we preach Christ crucified," why? That is where life begins for the child of God. It begins at the foot of the cross because that is where the Lord in the power of his law brings us. It brings us guilty down before the

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:17.

¹⁹ 2 Samuel 12:7.

²⁰ John 20:11.

²¹ Ibid.

bottom of the cross on our hands and knees begging for forgiveness as the gift of forgiveness and repentance flows from the head.

As we see the blood flow from the cross we thank the Lord that it has covered our sins and that Jesus doesn't see them anymore and the Father doesn't see them anymore because love has covered them. And the blood of Christ has covered them and it has removed them as far as from the east is to the west and he has blotted them out.

That is what the cross is for the child of God.

Do you see? This day shows you in the power of the resurrection, it shows you that your sins are nailed there. He is risen, but your sins are still nailed on that cross and the blood of him has covered them. This is the power of the resurrection.

Death couldn't keep him in the grave. The all of my sin and my brothers and sisters sin and that is just the ones in this room, not all of the thousands and the millions upon the time past. All of that sin could not keep him in the grave. That is the power of the resurrection. This is the power of the resurrection in the child of God's life today to speak to his soul that that sin that we mourn, that sin that we mourn is only comforted in the beloved. It is only comforted when we see the blood has covered it.

And then that cursed tree, that cursed tree becomes something of great significance for the child of God to know that that is where his Savior went, that he was curse, became a curse for us, for that was the place that we deserved to be.

“But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping.”²²

Oh, the Lord knows there is a time for weeping. Brother Tim told us that last week. There is a time to mourn. What would it be if we didn't see ourselves as sinners?

And let me rephrase that because it doesn't do us any good to see ourselves. It is when the Lord shows us and reveals to us that we are sinners. You can notionally say that you are. You can counterfeit faith. You can counterfeit repentance. We saw that with Judas. But there is only one true repentance. There his only one true life and love and that being the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then she... oh [?].

She looked into the sepulcher.

“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.”²³

²² John 20:11.

²³ John 20:12.

The body is gone. And now there is nothing there but angels, ministering spirits. But do you know what? They can't bring peace to you either, because that is what they are is ministering spirits. But they can't minister the peace of God. They can't give you the peace of Christ. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. And she still is not comforted.

“And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?”²⁴

Why are you weeping, dear child of God? Why do you weep today and mourn over your sin? Why do you weep and mourn over the hardness of your heart?

And then we see something. We see where the Lord must bring every one of his children because they have taken away my Lord.

Is it personal to you this morning? The power of the resurrection that Paul spoke about, the power of the resurrection that Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, it is personal. It is not because you sit here in this church where the Lord has shown the power of his resurrection and say, “Yes, I see it because I am part of this fellowship.”

No. It is personal, as personal as it was to Mary.

“Because they have taken away my Lord.”²⁵

Is that what he says? When you can't see him they... something has taken away my Lord.

Do you know what it is? Sin. It has taken away my Lord.

“And I know not where they have laid him.”²⁶

That is where the sadness is. I can't see him. I have come to this grave where I know that he was lain, but I don't see him.

You say, “Well, I don't understand it because Jesus told them how many times that he would raise himself from the dead? How many times did Jesus say, “I have victory. You guys, I will see you again?”

But we don't believe. We don't understand. We come looking for your, Lord, but you are not where we believe you should be. But it is personal. That is where the mourning comes in. It is personal.

My Lord, where have they taken my Lord? And I know not where they have laid him.

“And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing.”²⁷

²⁴ John 20:13.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ John 20:14.

Oh, glorious day. She has come to an empty sepulcher. She has come to an empty grave. She is wondering where people have taken Jesus. Where have you gone? And then he is standing in front of her. Oh, what a time to rejoice.

Is it? Is it that easy? The Arminian will tell you it is. The free willer will tell you it is. There he is, Jesus. Just proclaim his name. Fall down before him and worship him. It is that simple. You see Jesus.

Do you know what that means? Run to him. Embrace him.

Well, Mary, why don't you?

She "saw Jesus standing and knew not that it was Jesus."²⁸

And we could sit in the pews. We could sit in these seats and we could hear Christ crucified preached. We could hear the power of the resurrection come powerfully from the pulpit. But unless the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and opens our heart and gives us understanding, we can just see him notionally. We can just understand him and nod our heads and say, "Yes, he is alive. Yes, he is risen."

But we can't jump for joy. We cannot see a risen Lord without him.

Isn't that what he keeps telling us?

"I am the vine, ye are the branches."²⁹

You must. You have to abide in me because without me you can do nothing.

You say, "Well, Jesus is standing. Why can't she see him?"

Everybody likes to say, "Well, he altered his appearance and..."

Listen. To every one of the children of God his appearance is always Jesus. But unless he shows us him we can't see him. Unless he reveals himself they must all be taught of the Lord. We can't vicariously live through the people of God here and join ourselves to our wives, our children, whichever ones have faith and say, "I see him that way."

He must say this to you. It must be personal to every child of God.

She saw Jesus standing. She didn't know it was him. Remarkable.

"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?"³⁰

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ John 15:5.

³⁰ John 20:15.

Who is it that you are seeking?

Isn't this how the Lord comes to his children? Where is the thunder of the law? It is not here. Where is the chastening hand that says, "What is wrong with you? Why are you so stupid?"

It is not here. Jesus' voice to his sheep is, "Why weepest thou?"

Why do you weep today? This is comfort. The Lord speaks comfort to his children. And he says to them, "Why weepest thou? Whom seekest though?"³¹

She supposed him to be the gardener. She supposed him to be someone else.

Sometimes when Christ is speaking to us we suppose him to be someone else. Do you know why? Because it doesn't mesh with our will. It doesn't go with what we want him to be.

"No, Lord, You couldn't tell us that. you can't reveal that. That is justice. We want mercy."

But Jesus to his prophet who said, "Mercy and justice have kissed each other."

The peace of the Lord, the love of the Lord hath kissed each other.

All of this is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Why weepest thou?"

"Well, aren't you the gardener?"

"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."³²

Look at the love again.

Where is my beloved? I am going though the streets looking for him. I can't find him. He is hidden from me. And all the time he is standing right in front of her.

Does he disguise himself? No. No. You tell me today that you can depend on yourself for anything. Can you see him? Can you see him in what you know about him today? No.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

Don't cast a stone at Mary, because we wouldn't see him either unless he revealed himself as the great shepherd.

And how does he do that? Well, he shows you.

“ Jesus saith unto her, Mary.”³³

That is all it took because the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd.

As dumb as the sheep are, they have ears to hear as the Lord gives them. And all of the sudden she is already had a conversation. She has heard, “Woman, why weepst thou? Whom seekest thou?”³⁴

But those weren't the words of eternal life. But her name, the Lord called her by name. And not only was it a name, but it came with power. It came and this day at this moment Mary was willing in the day of his power.

This is the power of the resurrection.

“Jesus saith unto her, Mary.”³⁵

That is all it took. That is all it takes for you and me.

On the road that we walk away from him, all it takes is the name to hear the voice of the shepherd.

And look at the power of the resurrection. Look at the power of the Lord's words.

“She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.”³⁶

“Oh, my master, my Lord, it is you. But in just a moment ago I thought he was the gardener.”

When the Lord speaks to his children, there is an unmistakable understanding, an unmistakable vision of who he is. This is, “But we see Jesus.”³⁷

This is him high and lifted up. This is the power of his resurrection. That is what I asked you today.

Do you know this? Have you experienced this? Have you felt this?

³³ John 20:16.

³⁴ John 20:15.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ John 20:16.

³⁷ Hebrews 2:9.

[?] the Lord, savior, teacher, what a glorious place to be brought to. But, you know, you want to see a greater love? Well, an equally great love, I should say.

“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.”³⁸

What could that possibly mean?

Well, the secret to the revelation of what that means doesn't come till the end of the verse.

“But go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father.”³⁹

But let's stop there.

What was Jesus telling her? He has revealed himself to her, his sheep. He has opened up her eyes in great love, but he has other sheep. He has other sheep that he must bring comfort to. He has other sheep that he must love and he tells her, “Don't touch me now. There is no reason to come and cling to me now. Go. Go with the message of the gospel. Go and tell those whom I love that I have risen. Go and tell them that he is not here, but he is risen. Go and tell them that you have seen me.”

And then if you thought, well, what was Mary thinking? Was she dejected? Was she felt rejected by the Lord?

Listen to this.

“I ascend unto my Father, and your Father.”⁴⁰

He made it personal to her. Your Father. He showed her, he revealed to her the union in him. My Lord is your Lord. My Father is your Father. Go with the gospel. Go and spread it. Go and tell them. Tell them I am alive, because Jesus' love is for all of his people. Because, see, it must be understood and it must be experienced by each individual sheep. But the Lord has one church made up of all those sheep. And every one of those sheep will be loved and every one of those sheep must be revealed him and must be shown that he is risen and that he is not here.

“I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”⁴¹

That is what he speaks to his children. He speaks peace and comfort to their souls that his Father is your Father, that the God of the Scriptures is the God of your life. That is the power of the resurrection that Paul said to know that, to know that and to know his

³⁸ John 20:17.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

sufferings and to be conformable unto his death is to know that God is in control of all of it and that God has ordained all of it and God has done it for what? For his glory.

And what did Mary do? Did she complain? No. She came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that he had spoken these things unto her.

Now over in Matthew's account, or maybe it was Luke's, one of them said that they just ignored her. They didn't even give any thought to what she said.

And do you know what? That doesn't change anything for Mary. It doesn't change anything that the Lord Jesus Christ revealed himself to Mary. And it doesn't change anything that the Lord showed her that he is risen, because it must be personal. And you may go to those and you may experience. You may tell others your experience. You may show them how they worked in your life and they may not understand. And they may not even ascent to what the Lord has done, but it doesn't matter. Because if the Lord has brought you to himself and as he has taught you the power of his resurrection, no man can take that.

But Mary did as the Lord said and he spoke those things unto her.

“Then the same day at evening...”⁴²

Now we have fast forwarded a few hours. She went back and told them. She is just in absolute heaven on earth. She knows that he is risen. She is living in the power of his resurrection because he has opened her eyes to see it. It is come with great power to her soul. But there is those that it hasn't.

But does Jesus leave them behind? Does he chasten them and say, “You know what? Because you didn't believe her, I am not going to show my love to you”?

No.

“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.”⁴³

Oh, my, what they did to the head they are going to do to us. They are going to hang every one of us on a tree. They are out trying to kill us because we were followers of him. We are shut up in a room and we are scared. Isn't that what us sheep do? We are shut up into ourselves and we are scared. We are frightened at the world. We are frightened at the false religion of the world. We are frightened at all of these things. And sometimes we just recluse to ourselves, because of fear.

Oh, I can't do this. I can't do that.

⁴² John 20:19.

⁴³ Ibid.

An the Lord says this.

“[Then] came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.”⁴⁴

And, you know, that is all it took. Because the perfect love of the Son has cast out the fear. And that is where peace comes. The love of the Lord Jesus Christ casts out fear.

And as they stood there shaking he stood in the midst of them and he said unto them, “Peace be unto you.”⁴⁵

In all the trials, and we will have tribulation, in all of the sufferings, in all of the uncertainty of this life this is the only thing that keeps us. This is the only voice to hear that can cause the turmoil to go away.

“Peace be unto you.”⁴⁶

But, dear ones, he must speak it. He must speak it to your soul.

As he speaks the power of the resurrection to your soul, he must speak to you today that there is peace in your soul, the peace that he has made with the Father and paid the debt for your sins. Has he said that to you? Is there peace in your soul because you have been saved in him?

And then we come to where we started.

“And when he had so said,”⁴⁷ when he had said “Peace be unto you,” “...he shewed unto them his hands and his side.”⁴⁸

Today he does reveal his hands and his side to us. But he reveals it by faith. He reveals it in the elements once a month. He reveals it in his Word. He reveals it in a still small voice. He reveals comfort to his children and then and only then were the disciples glad.

That is where we started today. Are you exceedingly happy and joyful in the resurrection? Can you see the resurrection? Has it been revealed to your downtrodden soul?

“Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.”⁴⁹

I pray this morning that happiness and gladness fills your soul as the Lord reveals himself to you.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ John 20:20.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

We will finish today at the end of 1 Corinthians 15. I love this question.

In 1 Corinthians 15 verse 55 we read this question.

“O death, where is thy sting?”⁵⁰

To walk in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ we must ask that question. But we don't ask it out of a must to, a have to or just by ascent of knowledge. We have to pass through the veil, sufferings and trials and tribulations. And it brings us here. It brings us to show our great victory, our victory in Jesus.

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin.”⁵¹

Amen to that.

Oh, it is, isn't it? Isn't that what causes you trepidation about death? It is sin. It is seeing yourself as a sinner.

You know, when the Lord reveals himself as one that has covered that sin, that sting is gone, because it has been taken away.

“The strength of sin is the law.”⁵²

How true that is.

Oh, God is so holy. And his Word will reveal that where we fall short. Oh, the power of the Lord to reveal. And this is all out of love, to reveal to us our need of a Savior, our dire need to be washed in his blood.

And Paul says:

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”⁵³

I love that little word “us.” You know, the Bible is full of us and them because there is only two lines. There is no crossing over. There is no I profess to be. There is only possessors and not professors.

May the Lord be pleased today to reveal the power, the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection.

⁵⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:55.

⁵¹ 1 Corinthians 15:55-56.

⁵² 1 Corinthians 15:56.

⁵³ 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, I ask, Lord, for thy power to be added to thy Word, thy Spirit to illumine our souls and, Lord, may you reveal to thy dear people this day the power of thy resurrection. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.