

Luke 24:36-53

"The Gospel Goes Global"

Jesus said, *"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."* ^{Jhn 20:21} God had a mission for His Son, it was to come to this earth, live a sinless life, die a sinner's death & in so doing provide atonement for the sin of the world through the shedding of His blood. *It was to be through His death & resurrection that we would find redemption by faith in Him. So Jesus didn't come to do what He wanted, when He wanted, however He felt like doing it.* He said, *"For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."*

¹ Now He says to you & me, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." How that translates is that we're not to be about our own will, doing what we want, when we want, however we want to do it. *But even as Jesus came in the name of the Father, doing the will of the Father, if we've seen Him we've seen the Father... even so we're to go forth in the name of Jesus, doing the will of Jesus, if people see us ... have they seen Jesus?*

Even as it was the will of the Father for Jesus to get the *work* of redemption *done*, it's the will of the Son for us to get the *word* of redemption *out*. In today's text Jesus gives message, the mission & the means (in that order). It's critical that we have the order down. *Because you really can't receive the mission until you know the message; it does you no good to outrun everyone else if you don't know the message to share when you get to where you're going. Jesus gives us the message; repentance and remission of sins is to be preached in His name.* The mission, take that message to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. The means, through the Person & the power of Holy Spirit at work in your life.

In these last 17 Vs of the gospel of Luke, Luke summarizes 40 days in the life of our Lord. Jesus ministered on the earth for 40 days after His resurrection teaching as many as 500 people at one time (1 Cor 15:6). *They would be learning lessons on faith, that He would always be w/them, even when they couldn't see Him. He would grant insight & understanding to them as He would open the scriptures for them, it would be a final phase of preparation (if you will) for the mission that lie before them to take the gospel to the ends of the earth...*

Well, as we fall back into the flow, we enter the text w/some topped out disciples who've gone from forlorn to on fire. The resurrected Christ has revealed Himself to them & they ran back to Jerusalem from Emmaus to make the news known to the others. But before they got the word out the others told them that Jesus was alive & had appeared to Simon!

¹ The New King James Version. 1982 (Jn 6:38). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

They're all, "We know, He's appeared to us to!" & They began to share w/them the things He'd said to them & how that He was made known them in the breaking of bread.

Vs 36-43

It's scenes like this that just make us love our Lord all the more. This could've gone a completely different way; it could've been a reunion filled w/harsh rebuke (& justifiably so). "Every one of you guys forsook Me, you all fled from Me, you all abandoned & denied affiliation w/Me, Peter *you* denied even knowing Me 3x's. Here I had poured into you, thought that I had friends in you & yet in My darkest hour everyone of you failed Me." But rather than enter the equation w/words of *condemnation* He enters their midst w/words of *reconciliation*, "Peace to you." (*Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"*²)

2 Things w/Vs 36. #1 We want to notice *where Jesus is* & #2 We want to take note of *what Jesus says*. As for where He is, it's where He longs to be in all of our lives & in each of our gatherings. He stood, "In the midst of them." That is, "in the middle of them", He was "amongst them". Jesus was suddenly in the center of their gathering. Listen, Jesus doesn't want to be on the fringes (out in the fray) or sitting on the sidelines of your life. He wants to be right in the *middle* of it, He wants to be in the center of it w/everything else revolving around Him. He doesn't want to be on the outskirts of this fellowship, He wants to be (& finds Himself [we pray] even as we speak in our very midst, moving *among* us, ministering to us. So it's important that we note where Jesus is.

What else do we want to see? What Jesus says... He says, "Peace to you." Now we could certainly understand this as a typical Hebrew kind of greeting however I think that we do well to realize that now there is a depth...there is a dimension to these words that could've never been known apart from the death & subsequent resurrection of Jesus. Now these words can resonate in us, Christ having made a way that man could now know true peace w/God through the blood of His cross. Jesus says, "Peace to you." We read in Col Ch 1, "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."³ Jesus says, "Peace to you."

But in almost comical fashion rather than *rejoice in peace* they react in *panic*!

² The New King James Version. 1982 (Ro 2:4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ The New King James Version. 1982 (Col 1:19-20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Now we can understand this, after all (we know from John's gospel) they're behind locked doors, they're talking *about* Jesus but they're obviously not physically *with* Jesus, then all of the sudden there He is right in the middle of them all & He interrupts their conversation by pronouncing a blessing of peace upon them.

How many of you have ever thought you were alone in a room when all of the sudden someone is there, you didn't know they were there & it scares the day lights out of you? How much more if it was someone who was 3 days dead, whom you're trying to wrap your mind around the fact that now they're alive!?

He says "Peace", they all panic, but He shows patience... Now we don't have time to get into it but this gives us a glimpse into the kind of upgrade we're going to get in our resurrection body. Upgrades are something we all like, when the newest techno gadget comes out, or the latest software update is made available, we all want to know what features are upgraded & how much more efficient the new model is going to be.

Well, your resurrection body will be much more efficient & will receive plenty of upgrades. In Vs 37-39 We're able to see that His body is still physical, it's not spiritual (which is very important), He wasn't raised a "spirit being", the tomb was empty. He was raised bodily, physically from the dead. However the resurrection body isn't in any way (seemingly) restricted by the physical laws of this universe. He is able to appear & disappear at will; He can be in one location, then another location in an instant. Material structures aren't any form of deterrent; evidently walking through walls presents no problem...

But what He focuses on for them is His physicality. He wants them to know they aren't seeing a spirit. He's physically there w/them, He draws attention to the prints in His hands a feet in front of them & encourages them to handle Him. Which they did; it's the same word that John used when He wrote, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life--"* 1 John 1:1

These guys were touching Jesus, handling Him, touching the print of the nails, the print of the spear in His side. He wasn't a spirit, but flesh & bone. We note He doesn't say flesh & "blood". Blood is the life of the flesh in our present earthly bodies, it seems not our heavenly bodies. The bible tells us (1 Cor 15:50) that flesh & blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Christ had poured out His blood upon the altar of the cross & is now the 1st fruits of the resurrection. So though His body is physical, it's been upgraded & fit for heaven ☺!

Now in Vs 38 Jesus asks a couple of really good questions (that we won't linger on for times sake) but I'll just trust the Holy Spirit to make application to your own heart & in your own life whatever the case may be. "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?" We have the risen Christ in our midst, & you have Jesus in the center of your life. Now why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?

Well, these guys are picking their jaws up off the floor, they can't believe what they're seeing w/their eyes! It's too good to be true! So Jesus does w/them what He longs to do w/us. He dines w/them, enjoys a meal in their presence. How many spirits do you know that hang out eating fish & some honeycomb? "It's Me boys, let's fellowship." Remember what Jesus said to the church of Laodicea? (I know you core connection folks do, you memorized it last week 😊). "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."⁴ The Lord loves to (& longs to) fellowship w/His own.

Vs 44-45

So now they all get some form of study (perhaps not as exhaustive) much like the 2 whom He drew near to on the road to Emmaus. He recalls to their minds the things He said to them prior to His crucifixion & how that all the things of which Moses, the prophets & the psalms foreshadowed; He fulfilled. He showed them who He was as is written in the Word of God. He brought illumination & revelation to their understanding apart from which none of us could comprehend the scriptures. (God open our understanding that we might comprehend the Scriptures)

Now somewhere in between Vs 44-45 or perhaps in conjunction w/Vs 45, John 20:22 takes place (at least somewhere in this general vicinity); we read there, "And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'⁵ So all this is happening in this gathering, He's ministering to them His peace, He's explaining to them the scriptures, then He breathes upon them that they might receive the Spirit & they're born again.

Don't get me wrong, they were saved before by grace through faith just as anyone was under the O.C. But remember what Jesus said, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood." Under the new covenant the Holy Spirit would indwell the believer & Jesus imparts this gift to them at this point.

⁴ The New King James Version. 1982 [Re 3:20]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁵ The New King James Version. 1982 [In 20:22]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Vs 46-49

Thus far we've enjoyed marvelous illumination; this is where Jesus brings to us the application. Why is it so critical that we understand the Word of God? **Because we're not going out there expressing our own opinions & ideas about stuff; we're to declare that which is written & in order for me to do that, I gotta understand what I'm talking about.** Before I can be used to help you understand the written word, I've gotta have a grip on it myself. If I don't get it, how can I be used to show you the wonders & the beauty of it?

But here's the deal, me having an understanding of it, has nothing to do w/how much of it I know academically, it has everything to do w/the Lord opening my understanding *spiritually*. The words He has spoken are spirit & they are life. That was the problem w/the religious leaders of our Jesus' day. They knew the letter of the law, but not the spirit of the law. They didn't understand God's heart behind it because the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned... (1 Cor 2:14).

Ok, 1st Jesus equips them (& us) w/the message, right? **"Thus it is written, & thus it was *necessary* (key word) for the Christ to suffer & to rise from the dead the 3rd day."** Jesus wants you to be confident in the fact that the cross wasn't God's contingency plan, it wasn't some sort of unfortunate obstacle that got in the way. It was an essential aspect of the redemption of mankind. Planned from before the foundations of the earth. We read in 1 Pet Ch 1, **"you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He *indeed* was foreordained before the foundation of the world."**⁶ So the cross isn't cause for frustration or consternation, it's cause for celebration. God has so loved us that before the world ever was; He'd purposed to redeem us through the blood of J.C.!

It was necessary for the Christ to suffer & to rise from the dead the 3rd day. The resurrection was necessary as well, Jesus faced, fought & conquered death. So don't be confused, the cross wasn't a tragedy, it was God's strategy, the means through which He would save mankind.

So the message? The word of God declares that the Christ had to suffer & die, that He would rise from the dead on the 3rd day; & we're to preach (or proclaim) repentance (a change of mind *about* sin and a change of direction/turning *from* sin) and remission (or a doing away with; forgiveness) of sins in His name.

⁶ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Pe 1:18-20), Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

You guys this is the heartbeat of the gospel! It's the message we're to proclaim, everything else is secondary to this single mandate. So then what's the mission? The world. *We're to represent Him, be a reflection of Him & proclaim that salvation is available through faith in Him & His work upon the cross to the world; "all nations, beginning in Jerusalem."* That was home base, what's Jerusalem for you? Your home base, family, friends, work associates, neighbors; it branches out from there. God's desire is to take the gospel global.

God has made the initiative, now we have a responsibility. Divine initiative? Christ coming & dying for the sins of the world. Human responsibility? Get the word out; He will open your understanding, you are to open your mouth & share the good news...

Jesus says, "You are witnesses of these things." He didn't call us judges, jurors, lawyers or any of that; He calls His disciples witnesses. You don't have to argue w/people, debate w/people, present persuasive arguments to people; all you're to do, all I'm to do is share what we've seen, what we've found, what Christ has done for us & in us. We're to point people to Jesus so that they can be saved...

Ok, I know the message, I understand the mission, the mandate, by what means exactly am I to accomplish this?

Vs 49

Translation: "I don't want you to try & do anything on My behalf in the efforts of your own strength. You cannot do in the efforts of the flesh what can only be accomplished in the power of the Person of the Holy Spirit in & upon your life." (This would happen 10 days after His ascension, we see it in Acts Ch 2 on the Day of Pentecost when God poured out His Holy Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room & the world was forever changed.)

*Don't try to accomplish something for the kingdom apart from the Person & work of the Holy Spirit in & upon your life. Apart from the work of the Spirit our efforts are futile. Nothing of eternal significance can take place *through* our lives apart from the power of the Spirit *in/upon* our lives.*

So witnessing isn't something we do for the Lord so much as it is something the Lord does through us. It's not to be a "sales pitch" but rather a Spirit empowered witness. Jesus will not enlist you into His service w/out 1st enabling you to accomplish the purpose for which He calls you. *He won't put you to work w/out 1st empowering you to perform effectively & efficiently His plan. The phrase here is that we will be "endued w/power from on high."*

The word, “endued” speaks of putting something on or to clothe oneself w/something. The Lord will “clothe” you in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now we might think that this power will be some kind of amazing, cosmic/mystical electricity coursing through our veins. The word simply speaks of a “capacity” or granting of an “ability”. God will give you the capacity, to say, “no” to temptation. He will enable you or give you the ability to get over the reluctance to share Jesus w/those whom He places in your path. We need God’s help in our lives. Apart from Him we can do nothing. But we can do *all* things through Christ Jesus who strengthens us...

Between Vs 49-50, 40 days pass; after that time of teaching He was to return to the Father (what a glorious reunion it must’ve been when Jesus sat upon the throne of heaven). But it was necessary so that He might send the promise of the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Vs 50-53

What a blessing. As Jesus lifted up His hands they all seen the print of the nails being reminded once more of the atrocity of our sin & the magnitude of His love...what a blessing indeed.

And they *worshipped* Him; why? Because now every shadow of doubt is removed, Jesus is God in the flesh. To worship anything less than God is called idolatry, yet here they are worshipping Jesus giving Him the honor He deserves.

Then in obedience they returned to Jerusalem (in one of the great understatement of the scripture) “w/great joy” (I’ll bet they did).

They lived “out loud” for the Lord. They were in the temple (where so much hostility toward Jesus had been shown) *continually/publicly/unashamedly* praising blessing God.

The message, the mission & the means; Jesus gives it all to us. Now it’s ours to get the gospel global. Maybe you can’t go all over the world, but you can impact your world. Ask the Lord to clothe you in the power of His Spirit that you might change the world around you to the glory of His name.

Prayer Points:

Father, what a blessing it's been to travel through the gospel of Luke. Lord open our understanding that we might comprehend the Scriptures. I also pray that Your power would be at rest upon us that we might be responsible w/what You have given us in the message of the gospel. May we be faithful to get it out to the world around us that many might come to know You & that we might make an eternal difference for Your kingdom's sake & for the glory of Your name.

Before you can know the power of the Holy Spirit, you have to receive the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit will dwell in you; He will make you brand new, but that comes through faith in J.C. repentance from your sin, faith toward Christ will bring remission/forgiveness of your sins. Salvation is here, Jesus died upon the cross, & rose 3 days later so that by faith in Him you will never die, never be separated from God, but will be given the precious gift of everlasting life.