

20:22-31 Disciples to Fishers of Men 02
Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?
Reading – **Luke 24:36-53** 5th March 2017

Last week we started looking at the message of Christ to His disciples. John has pretty much focused on the fact that Christ came to seek the lost, to dwell with us. He is now showing the love of God again and seeking these men and women who loved Him. He is calling them back to His side and giving them the commission to “Go into the world.” In doing this there are several things that He covers. The first is recognition of who He is. They are invited to come close, to touch to know the Lord of glory. What an amazing thought. That God would condescend to let us touch Him. Yet He wants them to be absolutely confident that He was dead and is alive. This is the message of the Gospel and power for our life, that death is not the end but a beginning. Secondly, Christ directs their attention back to the scriptures. He ‘always, always, always’ takes us back to the scriptures. They give testimony of Him and the foundation of our belief and faith. They are the unchanging anchor; that place to come for confirmation, encouragement and guidance. He is now going to remind them of their call, His provision for their need, and His authority to make this call on their lives. Join us as we look at the rest of the message that John and Luke share’s with us.

- **Review**

- Understanding who Jesus is. Lord, God in flesh, seeker of men.
- Understanding the plan of God. Grounded in the scriptures, can’t change...
- Understanding our call. We are not saved to live a good life, (Prosperity Gospel) but to follow Christ’s **way**
 - Luke 24:46-48 “⁴⁶ Then He said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.”
 - 1 Co 15:1-5a “¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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...”
 - Gospel – literal meaning good news. It is the translation of the Greek term *εὐαγγελίζω* euaggelizo {yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo} evangel / evangelism...
 - **Evangelism** is the preaching of **the gospel**
 - The facts:
 - Man is lost in sin. He is born loving Himself, not God. He can’t change and He can’t atone for His debt. Total depravity. Every part of us is corrupted by sin. We don’t just fall short, as if we need a bit of help, every action is short, every thought of our heart....
 - Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”
 - Romans 3:10-12 “¹⁰ As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”
 - IF we don’t have a correct start, we can’t get a correct diagnostic. If the foundation is bad, why would you try to repair a window?
 - God came to us, to dwell with us, to give atonement.
 - Luke 24:46b – it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.

- All man made religions have works. Do this and God will accept you. The Bible teaches that Christ came as your representative, to pay for your sins, and to offer you His righteousness. That is the “Good News.”
 - It is based a true understanding of man. Man is not good, but evil and needs help.
 - God is perfect, righteous, and just. That leaves us in a desperate condition.
 - Yet God came to save, the good news. His salvation is an eternal covenant.
 - Hebrews 13:20-21 “²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,²¹ make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”
- **Luke 24:47-48** “⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.”
 - Preached
 - to be a herald, to officiate as a herald 1a) to proclaim after the manner of a herald 1b) always with the suggestion of formality, gravity and an authority which must be listened to and obeyed 2) to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done
 - Witnesses – The reason Christ called the disciples.
 - **Matthew 4:19** “Then He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
 - **Matthew 28:18-20** “¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age. Amen.”
 - **1 Co 9:1-2** “¹ Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? ² If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.”
 - **Matthew 5:13-16** “¹³ You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. ¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
 - Salt – Truth, purity, flavor
 - Light – Visibility, openness, clarity
 - Neither are normally seen directly, but indirectly. Salt by taste and Light by revealing.
- Understanding our need and our power – **John 20:22** “And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Luke 24:49** “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”
 - **Isaiah 44:3** “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;”
 - **Joel 2:28** “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”
 - **2 Co. 3:5-12** “⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. ⁷ But if the ministry of death, written *and* engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which *glory* was passing away, ⁸ how will the ministry

of the Spirit not be more glorious? ⁹ For if the ministry of condemnation *had* glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory. ¹⁰ For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. ¹¹ For if what is passing away *was* glorious, what remains *is* much more glorious. ¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech”

- **John 15:4-6** “⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned.”
- Understanding our authority in Christ. We are declaring the one way that God has told us of.
 - John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
 - **John 20:23** “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.” – Not some special office of priest that forgives sin, but a pointing to Christ...
 - **Matthew 16:16-19** “¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
 - **Vs. 18** Peter – Stone ; Rock – Bedrock “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”
 - **Vs. 19** “And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
 - Matthew 18:15-18 “¹⁵ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Following List attributed to John Owen, verses added by me)
 - For open / unrepentant Sin.
 - **1 Co 5:4-5** “⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”
 - For False Doctrine
 - **Roman 16:17** “¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. Leave False Teachers who cause divisions and offenses.”
 - Offenses against Love; Divisions
 - **Titus 3:10-11** “¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.”
 - Blasphemy of Worship
 - **Leviticus 10:1-2** “¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. ² So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”
 - **2 Samuel 6:7** “Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his* error; and he died there by the ark of God.”
 - **Acts 5:3** “But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep

back part of the price of the land for yourself?”

◦ Desertion of the Faith

- **Romans 10:9-10** “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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
- **1 John 4:15** “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”
- **2 John 1:7** “For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ *as* coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.”
- **Matthew 10:32-33** “³² Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

So we see Christ giving His disciples their instructions. Peace and understanding of the scriptures with a command to wait for the Holy Spirit and then to go forth in His power and bear witness for Him. He promised them that they would be fishers of men, now he is going to commission them and send them out to preach the word in the power of the Holy Spirit and to exercise church discipline. They would become the fishers of men that He promised. The question for us is have we found this Christ and heard his commission to us? We are to be those who have the good news and are proclaiming it.

Prayer “Now May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” (**2Co 13:14 NKJ**)

Sing the Doxology.... Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creature, here below..., Praise Him above you heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen