

Unfinished Business
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by C Benjamin Dill

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Welcome to Resurrection Sunday! Today marks the anniversary on the calendar of the empty tomb; the resurrection of our Lord from the dead.

When Jesus hung there on the cross on the very edge of physical death the Scriptures tell us that all things our Old Testament had foretold of Him had now been accomplished.

John 19:16-42

16 Then delivered he [Pilate] him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away.

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called *the place* of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, *and* Greek, *and* Latin.

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also *his* coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, **Woman, behold thy son!**

27 Then saith he to the disciple, **Behold thy mother!** And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.**

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35 And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

When Jesus died there on that cross, He became the **propitiation** for our sins.

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world*.

That word means that He is the **atonement**, the complete and final sacrifice; the once and for all **total payment** for all your sins.

Hebrews 10:10-14

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ *once for all*.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Upon Jesus' death, everything it took to keep you out of hell was finished.

But there was still a great deal of “unfinished business” the Lord had yet to accomplish.

That unfinished business would require that He rise up again from the grave.

Some might ask, “If the death of Jesus truly paid for our sins... and was the reason Jesus came, what is the resurrection all about?”

The short answer to that is that death simply could not hold Him.

The more complete answer to that question is that Jesus had a good bit of unfinished business yet to be accomplished.

We know that very shortly after Jesus rose from the grave He ascended again into heaven.

When Mary Magdalene saw Jesus early that famous Sunday morning,
John 20:17 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.

This we believe is when Jesus completed that once for all sacrifice we read about in **Hebrews 9:11-12**

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;
12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

One very primary purpose of Jesus’ resurrection is for our assurance.

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Beginning on the very first day after Jesus rose from the dead and continuing on for a full month and ten days, He began taking care of His unfinished business.

I. Jesus had unfinished business with His saved, born again disciples.

A. Jesus had made them a promise that, as of yet, was unfulfilled.

1. John 14:16-17

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
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. **John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

3. **John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

B. The very first day of the resurrection, Jesus kept this promise.

1. **John 20:19-23**

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 shewed 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.**

2. When Jesus breathed on them and declared, “**receive ye the Holy Ghost**”; what do you think happened?

3. Yes indeed; they received the Holy Ghost!

II. Jesus also had some unfinished business with Peter.

A. Peter had suffered a major failure.

1. He denied the Lord; not once, but three times.

2. In **John 21:1-3**

1 After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he *himself*.

2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

3. I don't believe Peter was just taking a break to do some fishing.

4. Peter is so low; so down on himself; so overcome with the magnitude of his failure; he is just giving up.
5. Thinking himself unfit and unqualified, having been a commercial fisherman, he is just going back to all he knows how to do.
6. Peter had perhaps forgotten that the Lord doesn't throw His children away - nor does He un-call those whom He has called.

B. Now Jesus shows up to take care of some unfinished business.

1. Peter and his companions, who probably figured that if Peter was going to give up they might as well give up too; toiled all night and caught nothing.
2. As they come in about dawn, Jesus is standing on the shore; he has a fire built and fish roasting on the coals.
3. Jesus called out to them, "Children have ye any meat"? They of course did not.
4. Jesus calls out to them, "Cast the net on the other side of the ship"; they're thinking, ok, what do we have to lose?
5. They pull the net back in and are barely able to draw it, it's so full of fish; a hundred fifty three big ones in fact!
6. By now they know it is the Lord Who says, "Bring some of the fish you just caught and come and dine".
7. Jesus serves them a, no doubt, wonderful breakfast of broiled fish and bread.

C. And now Jesus turns to Peter.

1. Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?
Peter replies, Yea, Lord you know I love thee.
Jesus says, Feed my lambs.
2. Jesus said to him again, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?
Peter replies, Yea, Lord you know I love thee.
Jesus says, Feed my sheep.
3. Again Jesus says to Peter; once for every time Peter denied the Lord, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me?
Peter, being grieved, replies, Yea, Lord you know I love thee.
Jesus says, Feed my Sheep.
4. Then in verse 19, the Lord tells Peter once again, "Follow me".

5. After this encounter with the risen Savior, Peter accepted the Lord's forgiveness and went on to be one of the greatest men of God who ever lived, bringing thousands to Christ; establishing and strengthening Churches throughout all Asia.

III. Jesus also had some unfinished business with His Church.

A. At this point in time the very first Church had been in existence for about three years.

1. The Apostles had been selected; the Church offices had been filled; rules of Church government had been set forth; they even had a crooked Church treasurer named Judas.

2. What they did not yet have was a clear-cut objective.

3. There at the tomb, Jesus sent a message to the Apostles.

Matthew 28:10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

4. **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 worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power 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.

5. The word "power" in vs. 18 is the Gr. "exousia"; Jesus gave them the command and the authority to take the gospel to, literally, the end of the world.

B. There was one more item of unfinished business.

1. It is one thing to have the authority, it is another to have wherewithal to carry it out.

2. Near the end of this 40-day revival meeting with Jesus meeting with and teaching His Church virtually every day, Jesus said this:

Acts 1:4-9

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 Judaea, 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.

3. This word “power” in verse 8 which they should receive is not exousia; this word is “dunamis” the wherewithal to get it done!

4. The next time you meet a policeman, the badge on his chest is his “exousia” or authority;

The gun and the nightstick on his belt are his “dunamis”, the power to carry out his authority.

C. Wait for the promise.

1. Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

2. From this point on, the Churches that descended from this first Church have had the power to get that Great Commission of the Lord accomplished.

3. That is why as we share with you the good news that Christ died for your sins, that He was buried and that He rose again the third day to save you...this message goes forth with the power and the presence of the Lord Himself as He promised... **I will be with you always, even to the end of the world.**

Conclusion:

This makes me wonder; perhaps the Lord has some unfinished business with you?