

PEACE, POWER, PRESENCE / Sunday, March 22, 2015

Unifying Topic: RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson Text

I. *Jesus Appears To His Disciples (John 20:19)*

II. *Jesus Reassures Them Of His Presence (John 20:20-21)*

III. *Jesus Commissions His Disciples (John 20:22-23)*

The Main Thought: And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (John 20:22, KJV).

Unifying Principle: A charismatic speaker can often lift and inspire an attentive audience. What is done and said to bring about such an effect? Jesus speaks peace to and empowers the Disciples with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson Aim: To review how Jesus fulfills the role of intercessor for God's people.

Life Aim: To help believers understand that God has empowered them for ministry through the Holy Spirit.

HISTORY:

Chapter 20:11-18 ¹It seems that Mary returned to the tomb after Peter and John had returned home (**vv.10-11**). Mary still thought that Jesus was dead as she stood outside the tomb crying. As a Christian we do not weep because we have no hope but because we miss the person who is gone. Mary Magdalene looks into the tomb and sees two individuals dressed in white, who were angels; one at the head and one at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid (**v.12**). She wants to know where the Lord's body is so she can complete the embalming (**vv.13-14**). As Mary turns to leave Jesus is standing in front of her in His resurrected body and says, "Why weepst thou" (**v.15**)? She is so overcome by her sorrow and grief that she does not even recognize Him and thinks that He is the gardener. Then He speaks her name and she immediately recognizes Him and cries out "Rabboni!" (which means "my teacher") (**v.16**). It seems that she may have tried to cling to or to take hold of Jesus; trying to prevent Him from going, for He said, "Touch me not" (**v.17**). She evidently indicated that she wanted to hold onto Him and keep Him with her. He explains that His destination is to go to the Father and a new relationship will begin as the Holy Spirit comes to be with us at all times. Mary's new responsibility is to testify about His resurrection (**v.18**).

John 20:19 Jesus Appears To His Disciples

20:19 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. It is still the first day of the week when Mary goes to the tomb but now evening has come and the disciples are assembled behind closed doors for fear of the Jews. In **verse 18** Mary goes back to them to give them Good News: she had seen the Lord and The Living Word sends this message— "*I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God, and your God*" **v17**. They knew where to go according to (Matt., Mk., and Lk.) to meet in Galilee as told to them by the women. Now, they are assembled there in the upper room waiting for Jesus. Mind you, these doors were locked doors for a reason. They thought they would be next to be killed, but here is Jesus suddenly standing in the midst of them speaking a word of Peace! They didn't open the door for Him, He just appeared; manifested Himself in their midst. Yes, that also frightened them! Jesus says to them, "*Peace be with you,*" because He knew they were afraid and troubled, so He brings a greeting and a message of peace.

John 20:20-21 Jesus Reassures Them Of His Presence

20:20 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. In Luke 24:39 He says, "*Behold my hands and feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see...*" They thought they were looking at a ghost. The two things that Jesus did to assure them and prove that it was really He

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/mary-magdalene-returns-to-the-tomb/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

in the Gospel of John was...

1. He used the simple day to day greeting among the Jews: "*Peace be unto you*" (**v.19**). This had to give some indication that it was Him.
2. He showed them His wounds: hands and side (**v.20**). They had to know for sure, this was He.

They had to believe by now. Yes they were now glad because now Jesus was before them all and giving proof. This was not a second-hand witness; this was a firsthand witness of Jesus by them. It is truly the dawn of a new day in every life that believes in Jesus! They literally saw with their own eyes and understood that when He said He was going to die, He meant He was going to die. And when He said that He was going to arise, He meant that He was going to arise. They saw with understanding. Jesus had a real body; His body had been resurrected (not just His Spirit), and the nail prints proved that He was Jesus and not someone else.

20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. Jesus again speaks "*Peace be unto you.*" This time it implies a commission—the Father had commissioned Jesus, so Jesus is commissioning them. He passes the baton! The great word "*sent*" (*apestalken*) and "*send*" (*pempo*) are different in the Greek. The Father sending Jesus is *apostello*, which means first of all, a setting apart and sending forth with delegated authority. Jesus sending the believer is *pempo*, which never means delegated authority. It always means to dispatch under authority. God, the Father sent Jesus and delegated **all** authority to Him. Jesus delegates no authority to the believer; He dispatches messengers under His authority. What is the mission? It is the very same mission as Jesus was sent to do. A disciple is the prophet and witness of the living Lord.

- Christ is the Way; the disciple points the Way!
- Christ is the Truth; the disciple proclaims the Truth!
- Christ is the life; the disciple shares the Life!

John 20:22-23 Jesus Commissions His Disciples

20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:— Jesus had commissioned disciples and now gives them power to carry out His orders. Man was created, but did not come alive until God breathed into him the breath of life (Gen.2:7). There is life in the breath of God! Jesus breathing on the disciples brought a spiritual quickening; imparting the Holy Spirit's power upon them would change many lives. It was both a symbolic and spiritual preparation for the Spirit's coming in the time of Pentecost (Acts 2). Jesus was showing His followers that the Spirit's very special presence and power was to indwell in both believers and the church as the Temple of God. They were to receive ye the Holy Ghost, as a foretaste, He came with power to help them do God's Will on earth!

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

This gift of the Holy Spirit is connected with the action of forgiving or retaining sins. It was not the work of the disciples to forgive sins, but the work of the Holy Spirit through the disciples as they fulfilled the Great Commission. Christ gave the disciples authority to state; to proclaim the gospel message that forgiveness of sins was possible. It proclaims that those who believe in Jesus have their sins forgiven, and that those who do not believe in Him do not have their sins forgiven.

SUMMARY:

The timing of this event is about 12 hours after the first witness saw Jesus who had risen from the grave. The scene is a private home in Jerusalem. By evening the disciples and all are shut-up behind closed and locked doors in fear of the Jews. Jesus suddenly appears to them and says "*Peace be unto you*" (**v.19**) and then shows them the wounds in His hands and side (**v. 20**). By now the disciples are overjoyed for now they have seen the Lord with their own eyes. Then, Jesus said, "*Peace be unto you. Just as the Father sent Me, I send you*" (**v. 21**). Having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If they forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if they withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld" (**vv. 22-23**)!

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