

Sermon Notes

The Power of His Resurrection

John 20:19-23

Resurrection Sunday, April 16, 2006

A. Introduction

1. When did the meeting in this passage take place?
2. What was it that Paul sought to know, Philippians 3:10?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

B. Power of His Presence ..... verses 19, 20

1. what was the 'before' picture?
2. what was the 'after' picture?
3. what made the change?

C. Power of His Peace ..... verses 19, 21

1. what was Jesus' bequest in John 14:27?
2. what was the current state of creation, Romans 8:22?
3. what kind of peace did the cross obtain, Romans 5:1?
4. what is one practical outcome of this peace, Hebrews 4:16?

D. Power of the Proof ..... verse 20

1. what did Jesus' demonstration prove to the 10 disciples?
2. what are some reasons to believe that Christ rose from the dead?

- a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f. not expected, clearly predicted-Isaiah 53:10, Psalm 16:10-11
3. and the resurrection proved (Romans 1:4) that Jesus was

E. Power of the Paraclete ..... verse 22

1. Paraclete is a name for \_\_\_\_\_
2. in John 14:17, He was promised to be
3. Romans 8:11, He is the one who both

F. Power for a Purpose ..... vv 21, 23

1. this power was that
  - a. first ...
  - b. second ...
2. who has the power to forgive (Job 14:14, Isaiah 43:25, Daniel 9:9, Mark 2:7, 10)?
3. what did this power allow the apostles to do within a few weeks (Acts 4:33)?

A. Introduction

1. discouragement is an emotion very easy to feel
  - a. we live in a culture that is performance based: when we do not see results, or at least the results that we desire to see, we or others consider us to be failures
  - b. for example, we have met here this morning
    - (A) in comparison to some churches, few in number
    - (B) especially since a number of our families are spending this weekend with parents and grandparents
    - (C) so the temptation might be to be discouraged
  - c. yet, I think that you have already perceived, from our Scripture reading on this Resurrection Sunday morning, that discouragement is the very last feeling we should be having: let's look at the 10 disciples and ...
  
2. the scene that took place in the evening of that first Resurrection Sunday: **"When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, ..."** (John 20:19 NAS)
  - a. the word used here for evening is used to describe that part of the day which begins as the sun is setting and which extends into the dusk
  - b. and because John describes it as the "first of the week" we know that the sun had not yet set, for in Jewish reckoning, once the sun had set it would be the next day
  - c. and into this meeting of His disciples at the close of that day, walked the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ
  
3. in these few verses
  - a. we shall examine five aspects of what Paul describes a
  - b. **"the power of His resurrection"**
  - c. when he says in Philippians 3:10: **"that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death"** (NAS)
  - d. these five aspects being
    - (A) the Power of His Presence

- (B) the Power of His Peace
- (C) the Power of the Proof
- (D) the Power of the Paraclete
- (E) the Power for a Purpose

B. Power of His Presence

1. in the first couple of verses in this passage, we find these two highly contrasting descriptions
  - a. verse 19b: ... when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, ... (NAS)
  - b. verse 20b: ... The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (NAS)
  - c. you have surely seen those “before and after” ads – these may have to do with losing weight, or fixing up your house, or treating your lawn with a certain fertilizer
  - d. well, in these two verses you have one of the greatest before and after pictures you will ever find!
  - e. and it is all brought about by the Presence of the risen Lord Jesus Christ
  
2. here were these ten disciples
  - a. huddled together in a house in Jerusalem
    - (A) the time was still in the future when the risen Christ would meet with a larger group of disciples in Galilee, perhaps the 500 to which Paul refers in 1 Corinthians 15, having had as yet insufficient time to make that journey to the north
    - (B) we may only conjecture which house this was
  - b. there is, however, no conjecture about the doors
    - (A) they were shut, not merely pushed to
    - (B) but they were barred, locked, fastened tightly
  - c. before Jesus’ entrance, they were
    - (A) confused ... having heard reports of people seeing Jesus: the women, Peter, John, the Emmaus disciples
    - (B) afraid ... the soldiers had made their report to the Jewish rulers
      - (1) already the false message was being spread that the disciples had come and stolen Jesus’ body

- (2) here they cringed in fear, lest the Jews come and haul them off to suffer and to be slain
- (C) and discouraged ... Jesus, whom they had hoped was going to redeem Israel was gone (Luke 24:21)
- (D) pictures of abject fear, of defeat, discouragement

3. but, Jesus enters the picture, and what a change!

a. now they are glad; now they rejoice

(A) at His words, gone is the fear

(B) at His Presence, gone is the confusion

(C) with His Power, gone is the discouragement

b. all because Jesus is in their midst

4. this brings us to the very first requirement if we are to deal with the fear, confusion and discouragement that is part and parcel of this sinful world and our lives: Jesus must enter in

C. Power of His Peace

1. as Jesus spent the last few hours with His disciples

a. He left them a bequest, a gift upon His death: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14:27 NAS)

b. and after being raised from the dead He greeted them with this same word ... Peace! Twice in this passage

c. ... Jesus ... said to them, "Peace be with you." ... Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you..." (John 20:19b, 21a; NAS)

2. when sin entered this world, peace was destroyed

a. Romans 8:22 tells us that on account of the corruption that entered the world with sin, the whole creation has suffered until now that God's salvation has been revealed

b. man has been at enmity, an enemy rebelling against God

c. and conflict rather than peace has been our experience

d. but, with salvation achieved through the cross of Christ, we at last find peace: "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (Romans 5:1 NAS)

3. the power of this peace is eminently practical

a. it is not simply a restful feeling, a serendipity

b. but it means that in every trial, in every fear, in every disillusionment, in every discouragement, we can "... draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16; NAS)

c. what an answer for fear, confusion, discouragement!

D. the Power of the Proof

1. verse 20a: And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side... (NAS)

a. the first thing that I notice about this is that there is no record to the disciples asking for Jesus to do this (as there is later for Thomas who missed this meeting)

b. this action of Jesus was done at His own volition and by His own wisdom

(A) for he knows our frame

(B) Jesus had walked with these for three years ... knew their weakness, knew their times of doubting

(C) moreover, if while walking on the earth he knew what was in man ... how much more so now that He was risen

2. the 10 reasons to believe Christ rose from the dead <sup>-{2}</sup>.

a. 1. a public execution assured his death

(A) The Magazine "Christianity Today" has an anonymous advice columnist who goes by the name Eutyclus. A lay person wrote in rather distraught about their pastor's Easter sermon:

(B) Dear Eutyclus: (the letter begins)

(1) Our preacher said, On Easter, that Jesus just swooned on the cross and the disciples nursed Him back to health. What do you think?

(2) Sincerely, Bewildered

(C) Dear Bewildered:

(1) Beat your preacher with a cat-of-nine-tails using 39 heavy strokes, nail him to a cross, hang him in the sun for 6 hours; run a spear through his heart; embalm him; put him in an airless tomb for 36 hours and see what happens.

(2) Sincerely, Eutyclus <sup>-{3}</sup>.

(D) yes, Jesus of Nazareth truly died on that cross

b. 2. a high official, Pilate, gave to Jesus' enemies a watch of soldiers (of such size as they deemed sufficient) to secure the grave-site as fast as they possibly could

c. 3. in spite of the guards, the grave was found empty

d. 4. many people claimed to have seen him alive after this – check out the list found in 1 Corinthians 15

e. 5. His disciples were dramatically changed ... this is what we are seeing in the passage this morning

f. 6. these witnesses were willing to die for their claims – people will not die for what they KNOW to be a lie; therefore, these KNEW their claims were true

g. 7. Jewish believers changed their day of worship to the first day of the week ... the day Jesus rose from the dead

h. 8. although unexpected it was clearly predicted

(A) on Good Friday, we read these words from Isaiah 53:10 "But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand." (NAS) – a guilt offering requires death and yet the Suffering Servant will have prolonged days!

(B) and this morning in our call to worship we read from Psalm 16:10–11, "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will you allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (NKJV)

i. 9. it was a fitting climax to a miraculous life

j. 10. it fits the experience of those who now trust in Him

3. the resurrection, then, is one of the supreme proofs of our faith, the proof that Jesus of Nazareth is who He says He is, "who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord," (Romans 1:4 NAS)

a. a fact that Paul the apostle carried with him all his days

b. that gave him deliverance from fear and discouragement in every trial – Jesus the Lord is alive and with His people!

#### E. Power of the Paraclete

1. in verse 22 we read: [And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."](#) (NAS)

a. ('Paraclete' is one of the names of the Holy Spirit; it is the Greek word which is translated 'Comforter' and literally means 'one called alongside', to help, say)

2. now this is not an easy verse to understand

a. question arises, what receiving of the Holy Spirit is this?

b. we can quickly see that it is not the coming of the Holy Spirit in power at Pentecost that is spoken of here

(A) that would only take place after Jesus ascended

(B) and would be accompanied by visible, audible signs

c. is it may be symbolic of the fulfilment of Jesus' promise of John 14:17 ["that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."](#) (John 14:17 NAS)?

(A) which by His resurrection is given to all believers

(B) that is, the indwelling Spirit who brings salvation, the Spirit who brings regeneration, new life in Christ

(C) for it is, indeed, in Christ resurrection that we find new life, the truth we find spelled out in Romans 8:11 ["But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you."](#) (NAS)

3. regardless, then of the exact meaning of this verse,

a. we find that God's Holy Spirit

b. the Spirit that raised Christ from the dead

- c. was given to these 10 men, as He is given to us
- d. and with that gift comes Holy Spirit power
- e. so how can fear or discouragement remain predominant?

## F. Power for a Purpose

1. Verse 21: **Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."** (NAS) and verse 23 continues: **"If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."** (NAS)
  - a. the first point: the power was so that the disciples could proceed with the ministry that Jesus had begun
  - b. the second point: that ministry was spiritual rather than physical in nature; it was to bring forgiveness of sin
2. But let me take just a moment to clarify a misinterpretation that exists of these verses in some churches, namely that the church through its leaders can grant forgiveness of sin
  - a. Job (14:4) asks and answers the question, **"Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!"** (NAS)
  - b. God tells us in Isaiah 43:25: **"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins."** (NAS)
  - c. Daniel reminds us (9:9) that **"To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him"** (NAS)
  - d. so the religious rulers of Jesus' day were right when they asked the question in Mark 2:7 **'who can forgive sins but God only'** but drew the wrong conclusion from the answer for Jesus in verse 10 showed that he, the **"Son of Man has power to forgive sins"**... because He was God
  - e. so we know, therefore, that these disciples, including Peter, were not given what is God's prerogative, the forgiveness of sins, but rather
    - (A) the message of forgiveness of sins to those who repent
    - (B) and of condemnation to those who refuse the gospel
  - f. so, we find these apostles empowered and sent out with a purpose, so that in a few weeks we read of this ragged band, **"And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all."** (Acts 4:33 NAS)



3. how can we remain fearful, confused, discouraged when we realized the purpose that each of us has to bear His name out into our world? ... if God chooses to entrust this task to us, who are we to question His wisdom!?

G. Conclusion

1. so we who are here this morning who know the Lord Jesus Christ as our own personal Saviour should also know the Power of His resurrection!
  - a. the Power of His Presence – a life-changing Presence!
  - b. the Power of His Peace – which passes all comprehension!
  - c. the Power of the Proof – knowing He is alive today!
  - d. the Power of the Paraclete – giving the believer new life!
  - e. the Power for a Purpose – entrusting us to serve Him!
  
2. we are able, then, to say confidently and boldly, thankfully and with power, “He Lives” ... Praise the Lord!

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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NLT	1996 New Living Translation © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

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2. Extracted from the tract of that name © 1993 Radio Bible Class, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49555-0001
3. Brett Blair, [www.eSermons.com](http://www.eSermons.com), May 2004 – Kerux illustrations #6287