

**The Gospel According to Luke**  
Luke 24:36-49  
Reading: John 20:19-23  
*Parallel Passages:* John 20:19-23

Sermon #108  
February 7, 2021

## **Jesus Is “The Christ”**

### **Sent By The Father**

By our calendar Sunday continues until midnight and by the Jewish calendar Sunday is over when the sun has set. It must be just before sunset when the Emmaus-road men catch up with the disciples in Jerusalem. We remember that earlier that day the 2 men were walking to Emmaus and Jesus walk up to them and begin asking them questions concerning the recent events; the arrest of Jesus, crucifixion and empty tomb. Upon arriving at the house in Emmaus Jesus broke the bread and blessed it, suddenly their eyes were opened and they realized it was, in fact, the risen Lord seated with them at the table. Immediately He vanishes right before their eyes. They could not contain themselves and headed back to Jerusalem to find the others and tell them that Jesus has risen, indeed!

John tells us in his gospel account when the 2 followers arrive back in Jerusalem on Sunday evening, they find the 11 in a house with some others and they have locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews, reading from chapter 20 of John’s Gospel Account, at verse 19, “*On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’*”<sup>20</sup> *When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus knew of their fear, so He sent the 2 of His followers to tell everyone He has risen and prepare them for when He appears*

from nowhere into their midst. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.’ <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. So, it is prior to Pentecost 50 days in the future that the 11 and possibly more were given the Holy Spirit to dwell within and this empowers the disciples. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.’”

The theme I want you to focus in on as we work our way through this passage is; *The Gospel of Jesus Christ and God’s redemption was foretold in the Law of Moses, by the Prophets and in the Psalms. The Old Testament also foretold there would be those witnesses who would continue the great story of redemption after Jesus ascended to heaven.*

Let’s begin with coming before Almighty God, our Father in prayer and dedicating our morning to His glory and the glory of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **Jesus Is Our Peace** (v. 36-43)

Before we arrived at this passage in Luke, had you ever wondered what the Lord would say to His disciples when He saw them again? What would be the first words He would speak to them? Would it be words of rebuke because they failed to understand? Would it be words of discipline or words of, “I told you so”? If they were your disciples or your children and they failed to understand when you had taught them for 3 years, what would have said? Well, whatever your first words would be, the first words Jesus spoke to His disciples when He saw them were, “Peace to you!”

Reading beginning at verse 36, “As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!”<sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”<sup>39</sup> See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>41</sup> And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?”<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish,<sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate before them.”

When Jesus says, “Peace to you!”, He is extending the eternal peace He has enjoyed with the Father since before creation to all who love Him as the Christ. Even though they were hiding behind locked doors in fear they were given peace. It took Jesus to extend this type of peace. The world is a fearful place, until Jesus brings the peace of God the Creator into people’s souls and by power of His Spirit they live no longer with fear.

This is something that the disciples needed to understand if they were to go on and fulfill their own mission, the Great Commission of sharing the Gospel of Christ and planting His churches. My Beloved, we can have peace with God through Jesus Christ. He purchased that peace at Calvary. He purchased it and He gives His peace to all those who are His. Jesus had prepared the disciples for this very moment, earlier He told them,<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. I will not always be with you, so listen to what I now say,<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. God the Holy Spirit, as He dwells in a believer brings to life the words of Christ found in the Bible and gives spiritual wisdom. Once this is done, then Jesus gives each

*believer a gift,* <sup>27</sup> **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.” (John 14:25-29)

The original 12 disciples did not comprehend completely until Jesus comes to them that Sunday evening in Jerusalem. But Paul, who met Christ on the road, understood the Peace of Christ and he writes about it in his letter to the Ephesian Church, in chapter 2, <sup>11</sup> **Therefore ...** <sup>12</sup> **remember that you were at that time separated from Christ ... having no hope and without God in the world.** <sup>13</sup> **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** <sup>14</sup> **For he himself is our peace ...** <sup>16</sup> *reconciling* us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> **And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.** <sup>18</sup> **For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.** <sup>19</sup> **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ...** <sup>22</sup> **In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”** (Ephesians 2:11-22) When Jesus greets His beloved disciples, He is not harsh or disgusted with them but greets them with grace and peace. Because of the cross, Jesus has reconciled all His followers to God. We are all brought near to God through Jesus’ death. The death of Christ put to death the hostility between sinners like us and the God of righteousness.

Jesus knew His disciples were cowering with fear behind locked doors and He brought them immediate peace and comfort. Because of their lack of faith, they were in fear instead of rejoicing. They allowed the world to speak louder to their

hearts than the words of Jesus. When we focus on the world, instead of God's Word and faith in Christ, the natural result is fear. For me, without Jesus I was an angry man, a self-centered man, an ambitious man without much regard for others. So, just as Jesus showed up to strengthen their faith so they could focus on God's redemption, He came into my life and changed me from the inside out and brought peace, mercy and love into my life. That evening the disciples are huddled in fear behind locked doors, still fearful and to reassure them Jesus asks for something to eat – a simple rule that they knew ghosts do not eat. At first, they disbelieved it was really Jesus, so Jesus patiently moves them to belief and now convinced Jesus is real they are overcome with joy. They needed to touch Jesus, see Him, speak to Him and see Him eat in order to believe. Reading at verse 39, **“See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”**<sup>40</sup> **And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.”** What is it that you need to believe? If you seek Christ, He will be revealed not just as the man who historically walked the earth almost 2000 years ago, but He will reveal Himself as the Son of God and the glorified Christ. Hear the words of God revealed through the prophet Jeremiah,<sup>11</sup> **“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**<sup>12</sup> **Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.**<sup>13</sup> **You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”** (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

Jesus comes to the disciples and He comes to us saying **“Peace to you!”** These words bring forth eternal peace. Jesus came to earth as God had determined before creation and carried out His mission for the redemption of mankind perfectly. By Christ lost sinners are found and given new life. Those who are enslaved to sin, even the most horrible sins that cut into one's soul, even the

greatest of sinners, all people who believe in Jesus are set free. Those who belong to the world and are enemies of God it is by Christ they are brought back to God and experience God's love, grace and mercy. Because of Christ work on the cross, God becomes our Father, who protects us as His children and will not allow the world to harm our souls or destiny. The righteous God accepts Jesus death as payment for our sins and pardons us from eternal hell. Jesus loves all people to the point of death for those who believe. Jesus says to all mankind **“Peace to you!”** Come believe in Me and become a child of God and know Him as your Father.

### **All Prophecy Fulfilled Through Jesus Christ** (v. 44-46)

It is at this point in Luke's account the Lord speaks and opens the disciple's hearts, minds and souls to understand the Scriptures. Continuing at verse 44, **“Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead.’ ”** Jesus began the process of opening the spiritual eyes of those who followed Him on that Sunday and continued for 40 days with the result of hundreds understanding and believing. A few days after He ascends into heaven Peter preaches at Pentecost and thousands believe and the gospel has been spreading throughout the world ever since.

There is something here that I believe is important for us to understand. Go back to verse 5 of chapter 24 in Luke, the women are before the angels in the tomb, **“And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead?’<sup>6</sup> He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,<sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man**

must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise. <sup>8</sup> **And they remembered his words.**” Fast forwarding to verse 25, “*Jesus* said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, **he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures** the things concerning himself.” Then in our passage this morning, in verse 45 we read, “*Then Jesus* **opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.**” See how quickly Jesus always takes them back to the Scriptures. That Sunday the disciple’s spiritual eyes were opened not just because they saw Jesus, but because they were given the ability to believe the Word of God.

We must see just what it was that they were told previously by Jesus. We must see that He taught them that He would die under the hands of sinners and that on the third day be raised again to life. He also taught them that throughout the Old Testament all the prophecies concerning Himself, and specifically concerning His death and resurrection. Jesus spoke with His followers to explain to them that the events of just a few days ago were told of by God’s prophets throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. It is at this point their eyes open and they see clearly who Jesus is and how it was that He came and accomplished His mission – to seek and save the lost by means of dying the death they deserve. He died our death for us. They began to understand that the cross did not mean defeat but eternal victory for Christ and all His followers. Just as the Scriptures had foretold Jesus conquered death for all believers.

## Jesus Proclaimed As The Christ (v. 47-49)

I want you to understand something else Jesus taught the disciples from the Old Testament. Reading verse 47, “**that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**”<sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses of these things.**”<sup>49</sup> **And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”**

Jesus showed the disciples the prophecies concerning His death and resurrection and He shared the prophecies concerning the disciples role and the future role of all believers to spread the Gospel of Salvation to the world.

What the disciples learned, and what we must also learn is that in the sharing of the Gospel, namely the same words of Christ is what caused the women to believe, it was by God’s Word the Emmaus Road disciples were given the foundation to believe and it is the words of Christ that caused others to believe. This is the same message that Paul would later be given and he would believe, and he would share the Gospel. Reading from his letter to the Corinthians,<sup>3</sup> “**For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,**”<sup>4</sup> **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”** (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

Again, in Luke’s record, Jesus, at this point, tells His followers the words of God in the Scriptures in a way that they understand. From His own Words, He tells them all about His death and resurrection and then instructs them in verse 49 that they are to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of God.

This teaches us there was another Old Testament prophecy that would shortly come true. Just as the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms taught about the death and resurrection of Jesus, they also teach about another promise of



God that would come to pass very soon. What exactly Jesus is referring to? What is this other promise of God that they were to wait for in Jerusalem?

Well, travel with to Paul's letter to the Galatians, chapter 3, where he teaches, <sup>14</sup> "that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that **we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**" God had promised Abraham that through him all nations would receive a blessing. This is found in Genesis chapter 12, "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**" Because Paul identifies exactly what the promised blessing would be – it was God's Spirit that would instill faith just as Abraham received. The Old Testament prophecy given to Abraham was, through the death and resurrection of Jesus those among the Gentile nations who have faith in Christ would be blessed. They would receive the Holy Spirit as well as believing Jews. Also, just as God blessed Abraham so He could bless the nations, we too, are to use the blessing of God's Holy Spirit to bless others.

Peter's preaching at Pentecost was the continuing of this blessing and Peter was called to bless others through preaching the Word of God, the Gospel of Christ. Observe with me what God does through Peter in Acts chapter 10, <sup>44</sup> "While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.** <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup> 'Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people,

who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’<sup>48</sup> And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.” The commission of Christ continues, it is the Holy Spirit now in these new believers who will empower them and give them boldness to go and speak the Words of Christ to others. Jesus died, was buried and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day rose from the grave to live eternally just as the Old Testament Scriptures said.

Jesus spent 40 days teaching His followers, mainly the disciples, from Moses through to the Psalms all that the Scriptures had foretold of Him as the Messiah, the Christ, and they were to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit of God came upon them. It is the blessing of the Holy Spirit that will empower the disciples to be the Gospel witnesses to the truth of God’s Word and Jesus the Christ. The Book of Acts gives accounts of this great blessing and how others come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and this process continues until this very day and Jesus calls us, as His beloved believers, to continue the sharing of the God’s Word and the words of Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit until He returns.

The Bible is the inspired and true Word of God, it is complete and there is no more scripture to be written. However, my beloved, there are pages of Christ’s victories to be written. Jesus gave the Great Commission to all believers, beginning with His disciples down through history and to you and me. What victories of Christ will you participate in? The Gospel is the only message of eternal truth and hope and grace and mercy and salvation from sin. Jesus said to the disciples that Sunday evening and He says to all believers since that day, including you and me,<sup>47</sup> **“that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**<sup>48</sup> **You are witnesses of these things.”** Jesus is asking you this day; are you going to be faithful, are you going to

fulfill His calling in your life to be His witness to the lost world – will you proclaim the Gospel of Christ? Only you can answer this question, not just with words but with the living of your life. I pray that for all of us the answer is, yes Lord, I will declare Your Gospel to the world without fear! I pray what Paul said about his life and I believe it is true about my life and pray it is true of your life and you will say along with Paul and me, “[For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.](#)” (Philippians 1:21) Amen!