

The Commissioning of the Disciples

John 20:19-23

John 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, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.

What an exciting day. What a troubling day. Jesus has arisen from the dead and appeared to Mary Magdalene and then to the other women. He appeared to the two on the road to Emmaus. And He also appeared to Peter sometime that day. Now it is evening and the disciples are shut up in the upper room for fear of the Jews.

Jesus suddenly appears to the group as we have in this passage. Luke gives us a little more information and I think we need to understand that we do not have a complete transcript of the conversations but that John here gives us the essence of the topics covered.

The main thrust of the passage to the commissioning of the disciples to continue the ministry that Jesus has begun. Next week we will cover the commission itself. Today we want to look at the groundwork that Jesus lays for the commission.

- I. The reason for the commission
 - A. Jesus is raised from the dead.
 - B. This authenticates His person and message
 - C. This was a vital part of the gospel message throughout the book of Acts and the Epistles.
- II. The power of the commission
 - A. He gives them the Holy Spirit for their helper and power.
 - B. This does not replace or even symbolize Pentecost.
 - C. Rather this is to show them that they will not carry out the commission in their own power but must have the Holy Spirit to accomplish their task.
 - D. Every Christian lives every day in total dependance on the Holy Spirit.
 - E. The Holy Spirit is God in us and fulfills the promise of Jesus not to forsake us.
- III. The message of the commission
 - A. Not only the resurrection but His suffering.
 - B. The signs of His suffering are still carried in His body as a reminder of His

atonement for our sins.

IV. The result of the commission

A. Forgiveness of sins

1. Through faith in the Savior concerning the message of the commission we have forgiveness of sins.
2. Our faith must be more pointed than to believe in Jesus.
 - a. The demons believe that Jesus existed, so what.
 - b. James says that the demons believe in God.
3. We must believe that He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures.

B. Peace with God

1. We talk a lot about peace.
 - a. We have commissions of peace.
 - b. We have conferences of peace.
 - c. We fought a war to end all wars.
 - d. And although Chamberlain promised the English people peace in our time, Germany invaded Poland and started WWII.
 - e. The generation of the sixties tried to bring peace through free sex, drugs and such but we still have no peace.
 - f. Our city streets have turned into battlefields.
2. Our lack of peace in our world is because we are enmity with God.
 - a. Isa 57:21 "There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."
 - b. Isa 57:20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.
3. Peace is what we offer this old world through Jesus Christ.
 - a. Ps 85:10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.
 - b. Romans 5:1-8 (NKJV) 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the

love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- c. Joh 14:27 "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, neither let it be afraid.
- d. Joh 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."
- e. Romans 5:10 (NKJV) 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.