

Remnant Life Church
April 23, 2023
The Blessings Left Behind
Matthew 19:16-26

We have celebrated once again the miraculous and world-changing event that was the resurrection of Jesus Christ

- The fact that God still speaks to us today from that empty tomb
 - His ultimate power
 - His love for people and for each of us
 - His peace is beyond our circumstance
- And what He is saying louder than anything else is that He loves you

We also considered Jesus' activities within those 40 days following the resurrection prior to His ascension to heaven

- Specifically, His conversation with the 2 men on the road to Emmaus
- And His reinstatement of Peter through His love and forgiveness – still given to us

This morning – I would like for us to consider the blessings Jesus gave to us even as He had to leave us bodily for a time

Jesus' ministry was about blessing

- Hover to understand the true meaning of this we must be willing to examine our own definition of blessing
- Webster – approving of something (marriage); a spoken word or action (meal/priestly); a thing conducive to happiness or welfare
 - BUT...in every use of the word in both the O and N Testaments, it never refers to wealth
 - It can be used to mean prosperity but in every possible area of life not just financial
- Jesus actually said just the opposite of the perverted teaching that is still taking place today by some of the most well-known preachers in our country

READ - Matt 19:16-26

- Jesus was not condemning wealth only the heart that made it the most important priority (**I Tim 6:10**)
- The way you determine how you view money is to ask yourself - can I be content with little, as well as much, just as Paul explained to the church in Philippi? (**Phil 4:12**)
- Paul's secret was living in Christ - *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* (**Phil 4:13**)
 - We do not do all things because of money
 - Or possessions or position

- Only through what we are given by our relationship with Jesus
- Jesus blessed all those He came in contact with, but not once did He make anyone wealthy
 - I strongly caution you not to embrace this teaching
 - It is a twisted theology that is based on self, greed and the satisfaction of the world

We have talked about the fact that Jesus appeared to nearly 600 people before ascending back to heaven from the Mount of Olives with His disciples there as witnesses

- Among those He appeared to
 - Mary Magdalene ([John 20:11-17](#))
 - Some of the other women who were His followers - unnamed ([Matt 28:9-11](#))
 - Peter ([Luke 24:34](#))
 - Seven of the disciples who were fishing ([John 21:1-23](#))
 - Eleven of the disciples in a locked room ([Mark 16:14](#))
 - Over 500 gathered together ([I Cor 15:6](#))

During those 40 days after the resurrection and prior to the ascension, Jesus was still blessing those around Him.

Let's consider just a few of those blessings this morning that are still for us today...

1. The Blessing of His Presence

- a. This blessing is a reflection of one of the names for Jesus – Emmanuel
- b. Which means “God with us” ([Matt 1:23](#))
- c. [Luke 24:13-35](#) (Last week the Road to Emmaus)
 - i. In this account, Jesus gives the two men a refresher course on Messianic prophesy
 - ii. God allowed them to see who Jesus was, but it was what He did with the bread and His words of thanks and blessing that, I believe, triggered their minds
 - iii. [Luke 24:30](#) - *He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them*
 - iv. What were the Words Jesus spoke at the last supper?
 1. [Luke 22:19](#) – *And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them...*
 2. Jesus not only reminded them of the Scripture but reminded them of Himself
- d. The blessing of His presence brought hope, joy, and comfort to all the disciples and followers of Jesus
- e. That same hope, joy, and comfort is found in His presence today

2. The Blessing of His Peace

- a. The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah the “Prince of Peace” ([Isa 9:6](#))
- b. He was not only Peace Himself, but He gave His peace to others
 - i. In [Luke 10:6-4](#) Jesus sent His disciples out to do the work of the Kingdom (preach, heal, cast out demons)

- ii. Told them to take nothing with them but to trust God to supply through the kindness of others
 - iii. Enter the house and say, “Peace be to this house.”
 - iv. If peace is there in their hearts, then God’s peace would rest on them
 - v. If not, then His peace would return to the disciple
 - 1. Jesus was the provider and the source of the peace
 - c. Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee with the words, *Peace, be still!* (Mk 4:35-39)
 - d. And as we talked about the other week, Jesus’ first words to the disciples when He entered the room to reveal Himself for the first time that resurrection Sunday was, *Peace be with you* (John 14:27)
 - e. The problem in our world today is that too many people, Christians included, look for peace in the wrong places
 - i. Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, sex, food, the internet, television, possessions, their job
 - ii. Anything that gives a sense of control (which is the world’s primary definition of peace)
 - iii. But that is a false peace that is really not peace at all – it is an escape or an attempt to mask whatever is being dealt with in that person’s life
 - iv. At best it may last only for a moment or a very short time but then it always come with consequences
 - f. There is no true, lasting peace apart from Jesus
 - i. John records that Jesus talks about what is to come and how the disciples would desert Him – then He says...
 - ii. *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33)
 - iii. As we said last week, the peace of Jesus overcomes the circumstances of the world
3. The Blessing of His Provision
- a. This may seem like a strange point given what we said earlier
 - b. But understand that Jesus did care for the NEEDS of the people
 - c. Recognize the difference between God supplying your needs and God supplying your wants (the twistedness of prosperity preaching – it mashes those two things together)
 - i. When Jesus was on the shore of Galilee and 7 of the disciples were fishing but catching nothing
 - ii. It was very likely due to the fact that they had forsaken the assignment Jesus had given them to be fishers of men
 - iii. It is always counterproductive, and even dangerous, to go against what God calls us to do (and if you’re not convinced of that read that short story in the Old Testament about this guy named Jonah)
 - d. Jesus still had compassion and told them to throw out their nets on the other side
 - i. So much that they almost lost the catch (John 21:1-13)

- ii. Paul writes in **Phil 4:19** - *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

4. The Blessing of Power

- a. Jesus gave the disciples power through the Holy Spirit to continue His work (**John 20:22-23**)
- b. And the power of God in our lives today is represented by the presence of the Holy Spirit
- c. It is the same power Jesus had through His Father
 - i. In **Acts 10** we read about the man Cornelius
 1. He was a Roman soldier who became a believer in Jesus and is the first Gentile convert recorded
 2. He becomes the representative of all Gentiles who were hungry to hear and know the truth of Jesus Christ
 3. God gives a vision to both Cornelius and Peter that brings them together for Peter to recognize that God's love was for all not just the Jews
 4. When Peter was preaching to them he said...
 - ii. *You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (**Acts 10:37-38**)*
 - iii. It is that same Holy Spirit that is given to you and to me, to all those who believe so that we may walk in victory throughout our lives
- d. What is that power for?
 - i. To resist the temptation of the world
 - ii. To stand in the face of life's struggles
 - iii. To resist satan's lies about who we are and how our past still defines us
 - iv. To praise God even in the midst of the storms

Jesus gave us spiritual truth in those final 5 ½ weeks

- The truth of His presence
- The truth of His peace
- The truth of His provision
- The truth of His power