

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 13, 2022

John 20: 20 - 23

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. **21** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. **22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: **23** Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Last week we left off with Jesus appearing to the disciples the evening of His resurrection in Verse 19...

Verse 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.

*The disciples saw the wounds in Jesus' hands and sides. They had true evidence of what Mary and the other women had told them earlier in the day. Even though Jesus' appearance (how He looked) was changed, the disciples now had proof that this was Jesus risen and this made them glad, full of joy.

*When you personally cannot deny Jesus' existence, you well up inside and spill over with peace and joy. It is difficult to NOT tell people about your experience, much like Marlin's testimony at the Palm Sunday Breakfast.

*When new people come to church, we should greet them with joy - go to them and greet them. Show them you have something special in your heart; that you are at church because you want to be, not that you have to be. All this makes a difference to newcomers.

Verse 21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

*Jesus was sent to us for a mission in order that we would have a mission. The great commission at Jesus' ascension directed us to go to all the world and preach the Gospel. This means it's not about you, it's about Jesus because He first loved us... not you need to love others.

Verse 22

And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

*Jesus breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Ghost.

*Reference given to Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

*Man was formed from dust by the Hand of God and God breathed into him the breath of life. The Hebrew word for breath is **Ruach** (roo-akh). It may be the same root word as for 'pneumonia'.

*Jesus breathed on them and told them to receive new life. It is noted that not just the original disciples (excluding Judas Iscariot) were in that room. There were others present to receive this breath of new life of spiritual quickening in preparation for the Pentecost event to come.

*When a person is ready to receive Jesus into their heart, their heart must have a broken spirit - no arrogance, humble and full of humility, being sorry for sins. Then when Jesus enters the heart by the Holy Spirit, they become a new person... going back to creation when God breathed life into the dust and man became a living soul.

Verse 23

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

*This verse contains some tough language.

A look at Matthew 16:13 - 19 may shed some light on the concepts.

13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

*Here Jesus gives Peter the Church. As the church we are to be

1. A House of Prayer
2. A Salvation Station- to offer Jesus Christ to anyone who comes in the door. When visitors come to church and they see a full altar at prayer time or hands raised in prayer during the Doxology, they see our attitude that the church is ALIVE!

But all this excitement comes through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Now as Jesus was preparing the disciples for the Pentecost experience, they had to -

1. Know Jesus (verse 20)
2. Know they were called by Jesus
3. Have the Holy Spirit inside them
4. Preach sin and salvation (forgiveness - which is what made the Pharisees so upset with Jesus)

Satan knows how powerful it is to have the Holy Spirit breathed into you and for you to know when you have sin in your heart.

Discussion continued about churches without altars to go to to pray. This led us to the altar for our 7:14 Prayer Time.
