

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 27, 2022

Pastor Tom reviewed a couple items from last week when Pastor Jon led Bible Study. In John 20:19 - 31, the story of Thomas is found. Pastor Tom noted the exactness of the Hebrew language and especially likes verse 31

**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, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. **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. **24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. **26** And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. **27** Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. **28** And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. **29** Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. **30** And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: **31** But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Pastor Jon posed the question last week about the difference between **faith and belief**, keying in on verses 27 through 29.

*Specific notes are not available for April 20, 2022.*

John 21:1

**After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself.**

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Pastor Tom asked why we thought Jesus spent so much time with the disciples after His resurrection. He felt it was Jesus' responsibility to His leadership. Reference made to the quote: To whom much is given, much is required.

Luke 24: 13 - 26 When Jesus appeared to 2 men on the Road to Emmaus.

**13** And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. **14** And they talked together of all these things which had happened. **15** And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. **16** But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. **17** And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? **18** And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? **19** And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: **20** And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. **21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. **22** Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; **23** And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. **24** And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. **25** Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: **26** Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

\*Two men, disciples of Jesus, were walking away from Jerusalem toward the town of Emmaus. A distance of about 7 miles. They were discussing

the happenings of the past week involving the Passover and the death and resurrection of their leader, Jesus Christ. And who should suddenly be walking with them but Jesus, Himself. The men did not recognize Jesus.

\*Jesus was going to great lengths to show Himself to His disciples because:

1. He was their mentor
2. He wanted to encourage them
3. These 11 men were going to turn the world upside down!

The extra effort was to prepare them for what was going to happen soon.

\*But these 2 disciples were not seeing who Jesus was and spoke to God (Jesus) accusing Him of being the only person to NOT know what happened in Jerusalem over the weekend! (verse 18&19)

\*Then Jesus calls them Fools in verse 25 and begins to explain to them who He is and why He suffered. We tend to complain during/about suffering. But in James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3 suffering is part of our spiritual maturity and growth. And we need to realize that we don't always have human answers for our sufferings.

Pastor Tom related a story about a man who went paragliding. As he approached the edge of the cliff, he got physically ill, suffering immensely. But once he finally made the leap off the cliff, an extremely good, calm, peaceful feeling came over him. This overcame the suffering of the moments before the jump.

\*So Jesus is preparing the disciples by revealing Himself to the men, who did not recognize Him until they broke bread with Him in Emmaus. They probably saw the holes in His hands as He broke the bread and their eyes were opened and knew who He was. (verse 31)

\*Following their revelation, they immediately left to go back to Jerusalem to encourage the other disciples still there.

\*Jesus had told the disciples to wait for a Comforter (the Holy Spirit) because something BIG was coming. (The pain and suffering was like a woman in labor, you know that something miraculous is coming)

Pastor Tom and others feel that several of the Lenten Services and the Bible2School Program are indications that something BIG could be coming to our area in the form of a revival. Yet just as people begin to get excited about BIG things coming, Satan tries to block out our anticipation. The "Surprise" that Pastor Tom has alluded to in past weeks is facing some hits from the devil recently, causing doubt.

As we read in the 'Drawing the Circle' book: The bigger the ask, the bigger the risk. No big thing happens without risk.

Pastor Tom asked us what big things we had been asking for and what risk did we face. Sherri shared about Marlin's ability to share the Gospel, being a quiet man not too long ago.

Honi, the rainmaker, lived before Jesus walked on earth. He drew a circle, got inside of it to pray for rain and did not leave until it did rain. He put God on trial to show how much he trusted God to answer his prayer. If he stepped out of the circle he would ruin his credibility and that of God!

Moving on to Acts Chapter 1 - when Jesus is ready for His ascension and is preparing the disciples for Pentecost

Acts 1:1-11

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and

in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Verse 8 refers to the power the disciples will be given and after that then the Holy Spirit will come to them. These 11 guys will turn the world upside down, beginning in Jerusalem, then Judea and on to the whole world!

We talked about the potential for the children involved in B2S to become the generation that will be God's Army. What an outreach to have 700 people at the Program hearing the Gospel shared numerous times by adults and children on a Sunday evening! Next year...UPJ or the War Memorial!?!

Verse 11 explains that Jesus will come back again, yet how many people in churches today really believe that? The church should have been in that prayer circle for 2000 years and until it truly happens!

In Acts Chapter 2 - when the account of Pentecost and afterward is given.

\*Pentecost comes from the Festival of Pentecost but also derives meaning from penta (meaning 5 or 50) and cost (what Jesus paid on the Cross) ...hence 50 days after Jesus died on the Cross.

\*Two conditions evident at Pentecost:

1. Those in attendance were of one accord- all thinking about Jesus
2. They were all in one place- Jerusalem

Once the tongues of fire came on them, they were given gifts of the Spirit. Pastor Tom cautioned us not to put the emphasis on the gifts as much as on the reason for the gifts...

Acts 2:41 says “ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Any church should stay loyal to Christ by making its #1 priority the salvation of souls. This is a sign of good, responsible leadership.

Why do we have VBS or B2S? To preach the Gospel and add souls to the kingdom through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Aftershocks rock areas where there has been a larger earthquake.

Aftershocks can occur after a revival as well when people have new encounters with God.

Pastor Tom shared that someone told him when doing a funeral service, never spend too much time speaking about the deceased person. But be sure to spend more time talking about Jesus!

We need to be aware that we all have a leadership position of some form or other (at home, work, school, family) and we need to be responsible in that leadership role. Keeping in mind that what will count in the end is - what we do with Jesus!

And don't stop praying specifically!

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Go in peace, go in joy, go in love!

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.

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