

JOHN 20:19-29 THE UPPER ROOM

INTRO: Talk a bit of John, his experiences. READ **JN. 20:19-29**

- The upper room. This same upper room appears again in Jn. 13, Acts 1:14, Acts 2:1, Acts 4:23.
- It would seem from John's account that they were in the upper room from Chapter 13 through.
 - 18:1; When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron,

VS. 19: *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."*

- The first day of the week. Notice the Spirit's emphasis of this. (Sunday)
- Jesus makes 5 appearances on this day.
- Only John mentions the doors being locked.
- The doors being shut, (literally, "barred.") for fear of the Jews.
- Yet Jesus appears in their midst. As the stone at the tomb could not seal Him in, these barred doors cannot seal Him out.
- Jesus manifested Himself in their midst. How long had He been there?
- How often are we ignorant of His presence?

Peace be with you

- Notice that Jesus' appearing after the resurrection to His disciples, is that of a peace bringer. Jesus 3X brings this greeting to them. (19, 21, 26)
- On the night of His birth the first words from the angels is "peace on earth, and again the first words from the risen Savior are again Peace.
- He is the Prince of Peace. ?? (**Eph. 2:13-17**)
- He did not tear into them for their failure and loss of courage. He does not rebuke them for deserting Him, He comes to comfort them and bring peace. He is not Jesus the critical.
- Yes in Mark's gospel he does scold them for their unbelief.
- But why such emphasis on Peace?
- First the peace Jesus brings to the frightened disciples is the peace He secured for them and us at the cross.
 - Col. 1:20; having made peace through the blood of His cross.
 - Rom. 5:1; Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Secondly to express to them that all was ok. Though they had failed Him, abandoned and denied Him, yet He forgave them, desired to encourage and strengthened them, and that He love them.
- Thirdly to communicate to them He was not abandoning them. His promise is sure; He will never leave us or forsake us. (Heb. 13:5)

VS. 20: ^{19b} *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.*

WOUNDS:

- He shows them His hands and His side. **WHY:**
- First notice this peace and His wounds are linked together.
- He points to Himself as our living Propitiation.
 - 1 Jn. 4:10; God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sin.
- Being alive He shows the wounds as the receipt, the proof of payment made. He is Jesus whom was crucified.
- In showing His wounds He highlights the point that He overcame all the evil that warred against Him, the words, lies, rods, the whips, thorns, fists, nails, and spears. All overcome.
- He is the living Victor over all His and our enemies; He has triumphed over men, demons, hell pain, suffering, sin, and death.
 - **Heb. 2:14, 15**
- The wounds were His trophies. His medals of honor.
- The seal, the brands of proof, that He did the Fathers will and not His own. That He was the Fathers victorious sent one.
 - See Paul, **Gal. 6:17**
- The marks of Christ. (stigmata) used to describe a brand applied on cattle or slaves.
- Paul's body scarred and bruised by his persecutors for preaching Christ, became the proof and evidence he belonged to Christ, and did His will.
- We too, if we will follow our Savior will have wounds. (**Amy Carmichael**)

GLADNESS:

- Then were they glad when they saw Jesus.
- What joy it must have been for them to see their risen Savior. Notice the source of their joy, "seeing Jesus."
- What joy and comfort it is for us to see Jesus, especially when going through trials, when life threatens us and those we love. Oh to see Jesus.
- Here the picture John paints is one of family, brotherhood, a church view with Christ in the midst.
- The upper room pictures the church assembled. Where Jesus meets with His own.
- A place of acceptance, gladness, encouragement, a place of receiving power, of soul refreshment, a place of sending, and yes sometimes a place of correction and rebuke.

VS. 21: ²¹ *So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

PEACE:

- **“Peace to you! This is the second time Jesus mentions this.**
- **The first “Peace” was a peace with God, this second peace is the peace of God.**
 - **Phil. 4:7, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**
- **The first gave them their position with God; the second was to be their position in the world.**
- **The first was the consequence of the atonement; the second is that which issues from communion with God. Peace in the midst of the world.**
 - **Jn.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.”**
- **The disciples were not going to heaven with Christ, but they must remain behind in a hostile world, in a world that produces no true peace, so they must have God’s peace.**
 - **Jn. 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.**
- **Here Christ communicates the secret of peace in this world, peace with God and the peace of God through communion with God.**

SENDING: As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

- **What does this mean?**
- **The Father sent Jesus on a particular mission.**
- **To seek and to save that which is lost, secure redemption for His bride, to do the Father’s will.**
 - **Lk. 4:18; “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”**
- **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**
- **Here Jesus now inaugurates what He mentions in Jn. 17:18; As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.**
- **Jesus represented the Father and we now must represent the Son.**
 - **1 Jn. 4:17; as He is, so are we in this world.**
- **We also are to be peace messengers. We must the answer, what is this peace?**

VS. 22: ²² *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- He breathed on them/in *them*, breathed in? What does this mean?
 - The breath of God. Gen. 2:7. The same word from the Greek O.T. as used here.
 - **Ez. 37:5-9**
- By the power of the Holy Spirit He gifted them with a new deposit and an opening of their understand of the scriptures.
- It was a new dimension for them.
- It was an foretaste of what they would receive at Pentecost, which also is an earnest of what we shall receive in glory.

VS. 23: ²³ *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."*

- Sins forgiven, sins retained.. What does this mean?
- A literal translation which will help us see and understand the meaning.
 - "I confer unto you the power of declaring and pronouncing authoritatively whose sins are forgiven and whose sins are not forgiven.
- As the high Priest in Israel pronounced clean, or unclean, the leper who came to him.
- The priest did not do the cleansing, he proclaimed what God had already done.
- God did not, nor does He, give unto men the power to forgive and take away sins.
- The power to cleanse and rid one's soul of sin lies with God alone.
 - Mk. 2:7, "Why does this *Man* speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- The scriptures always, without exception, give only to God the prerogative to cleanse and take away sin.
- There is not a single instance in the book of Acts or the Epistles of an Apostle or anyone absolving or remitting another sin, they always pointed the enquirer to Jesus.
 - Acts. 10:43, Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.
- This commission of the disciples was basically an instruction on how the church would be governed. It is a "church picture." An inclusion or exclusion picture. A governing of the body, acknowledging and discerning what God had already done. Like Mt. 18
- The church is not to be a den of confusion, but a house of order.

CONCLUSION:

- Has Jesus appeared unto me? Have I seen His wounds?