

Key Verse: Romans 8:18-25 (Please stand for Reading) 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will **be revealed in us.** **19**For the creation waits in eager expectation for **the children of God to be revealed.** **20**For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21**that^h the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. **22**We know that the **whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** **23**Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the **redemption of our bodies.**(at the Resurrection) **24**For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? **25**But if we hope for what we do not yet have, **we wait for it patiently.**

Opening: The Cross and Resurrection were not the conclusion of the plan of God for humanity. The Resurrection was the beginning of the New Covenant that was established in Christ’s blood. The Resurrection of Jesus was the end of the beginning of God’s works. Many churches stop with the Gospel at forgiveness, but forgiveness is only the open door into the life we were created for. After the empty tomb Jesus does not leave His disciples to wonder what the next steps for their lives and ministries are. Jesus comes to them to reveal the great plan that God has for them. **We are also disciples today. That plan applies to us,** and it is our great privilege to be partakers with them in the fulfillment of that plan!

1. After the Resurrection: Jesus works to establish the disciples Faith in the plan of God.

a. Jesus meets the disciples in the closed room, Thomas doubts and is restored by a personal visit from the Christ. Jesus does correct Thomas by saying the eyes that believe and yet have not seen are even more blessed. All of us have not seen the resurrected Jesus. We have a special blessing because our faith is in the Unseen one. Even though we do not see Him we can still receive His presence in our daily lives.

b. Jesus restores Peter after He denies Him 3 times: John 21:15-17 **14**This was now the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after He was raised from the dead. **15**When they had finished eating, Jesus asked Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love Me more than these?” “Yes, Lord, he answered, “You know I love You.” Jesus replied, “Feed My lambs.” **16**Jesus asked a second time, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?” “Yes, Lord,” he

answered, "You know I love You." Jesus told him, "Shepherd My sheep."

17 Jesus asked a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was deeply hurt that Jesus had asked him a third time, "Do you love Me?" "Lord, you know all things," he replied. "You know I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep.

- c. **Peter do you "Love" Me? Peter rejected Jesus 3 times and 3 times Jesus restores Peters call.**
 - a. Have you been under the burden of rejecting Jesus? God's grace is present for you today to get up and get back in the game. Get off the sidelines and get into the game, God loves you!
- d. **What Love do you Love Jesus with?** There is also an interesting contrast when you look at the Greek words for "love" used in John 21:15–17. When Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" in John 21:15–16, He used the Greek word *agape*, which refers to unconditional love. Both times, Peter responded with "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you," using the Greek word *phileo*, which refers more to a brotherly/friendship type of love. Jesus is trying to get Peter to understand that he must love Jesus unconditionally to be the leader God is calling him to be. The third time Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" in John 21:17, He uses the word *phileo*, and Peter again responds with "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you," again using *phileo*. The point in the different Greek words for "love" seems to be that Jesus was stretching Peter to move him from *phileo* love to *agape* love.
- e. **Life Lesson: Phileo Love will not accomplish the work of the Lord; we must have God develop an agape unconditional Love for Jesus and humanity if we are going to have a lasting impact. How?** Our Prayer Life

2. Jesus meets the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-33

- a. These were not a part of the 11 but were indeed a part of the group of believers. (Notice the scriptures says 2 of them) ** God counts you as a part of His number, He knows His sheep and He will encourage wants to encourage you today!
- b. The two were leaving Jerusalem for Emmaus, more than likely running from persecution and the plan of God for there life. These two disciples were headed back to their life before Jesus. Do not ever give up on God when it is a dark night, daylight is coming!
- c. Jesus comes to them like a shepherd to lead them back to the faith and establish their hearts in the truth of His resurrection. **God wants to firmly establish your faith in His power to overcome all obstacles including death, fear, and unbelief. Do not let discouragement pull you away from the vision God has for your life!

- d. Life Lesson:** Never believe that you are not worthy of a personal encounter with the Living Christ. He will do whatever it takes to reveal Himself to you remember **John 14:23** Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.
3. **Many more are witness to the Risen Christ: 1st Corinthians 15:6** After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ** The early church was made up of more than the 12 or 120 since Jesus himself appeared to five hundred people to confirm that He was alive and not dead.
- a. **Josephus the historian declares that Jesus Christ was not just a normal man, other extra biblical sources testify that Jesus was indeed real and that He was worshipped as God because He resurrected from the dead. For more proof of His resurrection watch the "Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel.**
4. **The Bizarre and Wonderful at the Resurrection: What was really happening?**
- a. **Matthew 27:51:53 (NIV) 51**At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split **52**and **the tombs broke open**. The bodies of **many holy people** who had died were raised to life. **53**They came out of the tombs **after Jesus' resurrection** and went into the holy city **and appeared to many people**. ** The righteous who had died under the old covenant were ushered into the reality of the new covenant at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- b. **Why did this happen? Why did the Holy Spirit write this? Luke 16:22-25**
- 22**"The time came when the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. **23**In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. **24**So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
- 1. The Old Testament covenant:** Did not cleanse from sins but only pushed back sins until the time that Christ blood would remove them from the offender forever. Animal blood could never save a life.
- 2. The Saints of the Old Testament were kept in a temporary holding place called Abrahams Bosom or Paradise.** They were not yet purified by the blood of Christ and therefore could not ascend with Christ into Heaven because the blood makes one Holy and able to stand in God's powerful presence.
- 3. Life Lesson: This miracle is important because it reveals the absolute power and supremacy of the blood of Christ to bring salvation to those**

who believe in God's promises by Faith. ** The resurrection of the Old Testament saints with Christ is a first fruits picture of the final resurrection of the righteous into eternal life.

4. Jesus is the Plan of God: The fact that Old Testament saints were attached to the New Testament Christ reveals that the death burial and resurrection of Jesus was all a part of the full plan of God. It was meant as a testimony towards the religious Jews who rejected Christ as not being from God, or a part of the plan of God.

5. The great Commission: We were saved for a person (Jesus) and a purpose (To declare the gospel)!

a. Matthew 28:16-20 **16**Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17**When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18**Then Jesus came to them and said, **"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

b. Jesus did not take us home upon our Salvation: He wants us to transform the world we live in.

John 17:15-18 **15**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17**Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **18**As you sent me into the world, **I have sent them into the world.** **19**For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. ** Let us shine the light in the darkness and show the world what God can do through His children!

6. We cannot go without God: The Holy Spirit will lead us into the Mission field.

Luke 24:45-49 (NIV) **45**Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46**He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.**"** The disciples had to wait until the day of Pentecost until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit which Jesus said was Power from God for the work ahead.

a. Who sends THE PROMISE? Jesus is the one who sends the Holy Spirit promised in Joel 2:28-32 **28**"And afterward, **I will pour out my Spirit** on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. **29**Even on my servants, both men

and women ,**I will pour out my Spirit in those days.30**! will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

b. If they needed it, you need it: Life Lesson: The power we lack and the stirring in our spiritual life that we desperately need is found through the Holy Spirit who is called the Spirit of life.

Altar: Our world needs us as the Church, the body of Christ and ambassadors of Heaven to go deeper into God. We need to pursue the call of God that is upon our lives to the fullest. We must serve faithfully to ensure this generation see's Jesus is ALIVE!