



“Easter: The Red-Letter Day”
Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21

Introduction:

Luke 24:44 “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you...”

Red-Letter Words #1 - “Believe in Me. Trust Me.”

Luke 24:38 “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

John 20:27 “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

John 20:29 “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”

cf. 1 Corinthians 15:8 re: conversion of James, the brother of the Lord (cf. James 1:6-8)

Red-Letter Words #2 - “Come and dine with Me.”

John 21:12 “Come and have breakfast.” (cf. Psalm 23:5 – “my cup runneth over.”)

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Red-Letter Words #3 - “Don’t be afraid.”

Matthew 28:10 “Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me.” (cf. Matthew 10:31; Luke 12:4)

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...”

Red-Letter Words #4 - “Follow Me.”

John 21:19 “Follow Me!” follow: Greek: *akouloutheo* = accompany, latch on (cf. Matt.4:19; 10:38; 16:24)

John 21:18 “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.” (cf. Luke 22:32)

Red-Letter Words #5 - “Forgive others as I have forgiven you.”

John 20:23 “If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.” (forgive = Greek: *aphiemi* = send away, let it expire, let it go.)

Immediate forgiveness today and reconciliation in the days following (Eph. 4:32; Rom. 12:18)

Hebrews 12:14 “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”

(pursue = Greek: *dioko* = chase after a person with whom you have conflict.)

Red-Letter Words #6 - “Love Me and love those I love.”

John 21:15 “Simon, son of John, do you love Me...?”

“If You love Me, take care of others—especially the unlovable.”

Red-Letter Words #7 - “Meet Me where we first met.”

Matthew 26:32 “After I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” (Matthew 28:7, 16)

cf. Revelation 2:4-5 Jesus rebukes the entire Church of Ephesus for leaving their first love.

Red-Letter Words #8 - "Peace be to you."

"Peace be unto you." (John 20:19, 21, 26; Luke 24:36))

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (cf. Matthew 6:34)

Peace is not the cessation of trouble. It is the God-given ability to remain steadfast in the midst of it.

"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34).

Red-Letter Words #9 - "Stop comparing yourself to others."

John 21:22 "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

"Comparison is the thief of joy."

"Thy will be done on earth....in my life...as it is in heaven."

"I will trust You to work Your will in others as You please."

Red-Letter Words #10 - "Stop weeping."

John 20:15 "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

John 16:20 "...you will weep and lament...you will grieve but your grief will be turned into joy."

Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Psalms 56:8 "You have taken account of my wanderings. Put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in Your book?"

Red-Letter Words #11 - "Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life today."

John 20:22 "Receive the Holy Spirit." (cf. Acts 2:38; 8:15, 19; 19:2)

The word *receive* here is the word *lambano*. The same word is used throughout the New Testament. The Bible is clear that we are to receive and welcome the Spirit by hearing with faith (Galatians 3:2) and to receive and welcome the promise of the Spirit through faith (Galatians 3:14; cf. Acts 1:5, 8)

Red-Letter Words #12 - "You are My witnesses. Go make disciples."

Luke 24:45-49 "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (cf. Mark 16:15)

Acts 1:8 "...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (witnesses = Greek: *martus* = martyr, sacrifice)

Conclusion:

John 21:25 "Many other things Jesus said and did..."

John 20:30-31 "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. If you knew you were going to die soon, what would your last words be and to whom?
2. What are some of the red-letter days on your personal calendar?
3. Which of the last sayings of Jesus mentioned had the most impact today and why?
4. What did you get most out of this message?