Sunday, November 22, 2026

Luke 24c

Luke 24:36-42, Christ's Ministry To Us: Spiritual Sustenance

- **[36] As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" [37] But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. [38] And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? [39] See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." [40] And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. [41] And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" [42] They gave him a piece of broiled fish, [43] and he took it and ate before them.**
- **Christ's ministry words (or statements):**
  - **"Peace to you!" (Vs 36)**
    - "Shalom" is the Hebrew greeting of the English rendering "Peace to you!"
    - I believe (along with J.C. Ryle and other theologians) that this is more than a simple hello. (Unlike my grandson.) Jesus is saying something important in this greeting.[1]
    - Peace to you is another way of saying "I hope all is well!" But Jesus knew their hearts. This was an intentional meeting on His part. The phrase "I hope you are experiencing peace" would have communicated the heart of what Jesus wanted to bring to them!
    - I would repeat that to you this morning. I hope you are at peace. If you aren't, then we are here to rehearse the Gospel so that you might re-enter a mindset of Gospel peace!
  - **"Are you troubled and doubting? Look at the proof of what I have done for you!" (Vs 38-39)**

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[1] J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, Luke* (1858; reprint Cambridge: James Clarke, 1976), 2:513. Ryle stated: "I am quite unable to regard this expression as being nothing more than the ordinary salutation of courtesy. It seems to me to be full of deep and comfortable truth."

- The proof of what Jesus did was in his scars! These are the very scars you and I are going to see and touch in heaven when we see Jesus physically for the very first time.
- Jesus was so personal here: he invited them to “touch me and see!”
- He was probably talking directly to Thomas here.
- **John 20:24-29 24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." 26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."**
- Do you know who Jesus is speaking about here? You and me and millions of others who embrace a Gospel we must receive by faith, without direct site!
- It’s a faith we choose to reach out and embrace in faith every time we gather.
- When we see someone you love, who we haven’t seen for a long time, usually our inclination isn’t merely to acknowledge their presence and existence. Usually we crash into them with a hug, and sometimes kisses (depending on who it is)!
- Have you ever told someone to give someone else a hug on your behalf? We have friends with us who get to see our kids and grandson all the time. We are blessed to see them once a year. When they head north in for the summer, we will say “please hug our kids for us!”
- That’s why we embrace each other at church too! We represent the holy hug of the Gospel. Jesus invites us here not just to proclaim the Gospel, but to experience the Gospel through close proximity that overflows into embrace and connection! It is actually a biblical admonishment that we learn to embrace one

another![2] We embrace on behalf of Jesus! He wants us to touch and experience His presence.

- (This is something I have had to adjust to as a "spacial conservative". I now quite look forward to the embrace as God has changed my heart!)

- That personal touch was the intended gift of the presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit!

- **“Let’s Eat! I want you to feel my presence.”**

  - Can you do a family celebration without food? NO! NEVER! Especially if you are Spanish, Italian or Greek. We invented Thanksgiving to share food and be grateful while we are doing it!

  - In the early church, food was a huge part of the shared culture. You shared food because it was a sign of sharing what was vital to live with one another. To share your food was to share the energy that sustained their lives. Food has always been the true currency of culture. [3]

  - Jesus wasn’t just eating to show fellowship. He wanted them to see he was tangibly and physically present. A ghost doesn’t eat. He wanted them to see the proof of his resurrection.

  - When we gather and break bread, we are the collective proof of Christ’s resurrection! And that leads us this morning to the Lord’s Supper.

- We aren’t just sharing a piece of matza and a tiny cup of juice for the sake of doing it. We are communicating something to each other and to Jesus. He asked us to do thin in his honor and memory, as if Jesus Himself were asking us to give out hugs on his behalf this morning.

- **The three ministry statements in the Lord’s supper:**

  - **We are choosing to dwell in peace by celebrating the Lord’s supper in reflection.**

  - **We can dwell in peace because we are choosing to remember.**

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[2] Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14

[3] Starting in Acts 2 and especially in Acts 4 (32) you see the early church consistently breaking bread together.

- **We can partake in peace as we rehearse Christ's presence through the Holy Spirit.**

- <u>ushers disperse elements</u>
  - We continue to see Jesus breaking bread, but not sharing the cup of wine. This is part of Christ's prophetic word of hope for the future.
  - Remember the unleavened bread of passover!
    - Unleavened is important because of what leaven represents in scripture![4]
  - Remember the four cups of passover!
    - The Cup of Sanctification because God said "I will bring you out".
    - The Cup of Deliverance because God said "I will deliver you from slavery"
    - The Cup of Redemption because God said "I will redeem you"
      - This is the cup that Jesus would have shared with his statement: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood". It was the cup that signified Christ's redemption of Israel as the passover lamb.[5]
      - This is important because in Exodus 24:8 God told Israel that His covenant with them was sealed in blood!
    - The Cup of Restoration because God said "I will take you to be my people".
      - Messianic Jewish theologians conjecture that this cup was most likely not shared by Jesus with his disciples as it was a cup for the future! He stated in Matt. 26:29 "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."[6]
      - This is the cup we are anticipating to share with Christ at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb![7]

- **Matthew 26:26–29 [26] Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my**

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[4] Exodus 12; Matthew 12:6,12; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1; I Corinthians 5:6-8; Galatians 5:9

[5] Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 11:25

[6] Brant Pitre, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist (NY: Doubleday Pub., 2011)

[7] Revelation 19:6-9

body.” [27] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, [28] for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. [29] I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (ESV)