

Fairview Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study February 10, 2025

“Empowered Through The Breath of Christ”

Lesson Scripture: John 20:19-25

Text: John 20:22

The recorded events and conversations that Jesus had with his followers, began early in the morning, **following his bodily resurrection from the dead**. It was on the first day of the week; Therefore, the first day of the week came to be known as **“The Lords Day”**. Noah Webster, in his 1828 Edition of the American Dictionary of the English Language, says, and I quote, “The Christian Church, (*The Church Jesus Founded*) very early, began, and still continues to observe the first day of the week in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ on that Day, on which, the work of redemption was completed. Hence, (in consequence of, or for this reason) it is often called **“The Lord’s Day”**. Paul said, Jesus- “was delivered (Crucified) for our offenses (sins), and raised again for our justification.” (That is the work of Redemption! (Romans 4:25)

What better Term, or Title, could describe the day, when Jesus arose?. His death had been witnessed by a multitude of people; the Roman authorities certified that Jesus was indeed dead. Joseph and Nicodemus buried his body! Evidently, it was by the order of Pilate that the tomb was sealed and the watch was set, making the tomb as secure as they could. (Matthew 27:62-66) But, as Jesus foretold, **“Up From The Grave he Arose”** The most creditable, infallible, evidence possible, that Jesus had risen from the dead is, **“He showed himself alive after his passion, by many infallible proofs”** (Not for just a couple of hours), **but for forty days**. (Acts 1:3)

Defining The Terms of the Lesson Title:

1. **To be Empowered** is to be **invested with authority**, authority, to carry out an assignment.
2. **To Empower** is to **enable**, **make stronger**, **more sufficient to** carrying out that which has been **entrusted and authorized**.
3. The **Breath of Christ** refers to the **Holy Spirit Power** by which the Lord’s work is enabled.. ***“I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*** (Jn. 15:5)

No disagreement on the time or place of Jesus’ Resurrection

John’s Gospel informs us that Mary Magdalene, cometh to the sepulcher, ***“Early, when it was yet dark”***, She evidently, left home before daylight. Mark’s gospel says, **“early in the morning at the rising of the sun”**; So Mary arrived at the tomb at sunrise. Matthew’s Gospel says, **“ In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week”**, and Luke’s gospel says, **“...upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning the women came to the sepulcher.**

It’s not my goal to try and relate everything that was said and done that glorious morning, but I do want to share some highlights.

The Resurrection Day Appearances

“Behold the angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled the stone from the door and sat upon it.” His countenance was like lightning and his raiment white as snow, and for fear, the keepers did shake and became as dead men” We know the women questioned the Angel, for he answered them, and said unto them **“Fear not ye: for I know ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead. and behold he goeth before you into Galilee, there shall ye see him: lo I have told you.”** The women left the sepulcher with **fear and great Joy;** and **ran to tell the disciples.** These instructions, Verses 2-8, were from the Angel, **but as they went, behold, Jesus met them (Verse 9) saying, “All hail”.** Which means, **Joy to you!** **“They bowed before him and worshipped him.”** Mt. 28:1-10 There were other appearances and works, many of which are not recorded, because if all were recorded, the world itself could not contain them. (John 21:24&25)

Later The Same Day - Emmaus Road Appearance

Jesus, on the **same day that he arose from the dead,** appeared to two men as they were walking on the Emmaus Road. One was Cleopas and the other remains unknown. Some have suggested it was Simon, but that remains **unconfirmed.** Luke 24:13-35. Jesus did not identify himself, in fact the eyes of the two were holden, so they would not recognize him, but thought he was a stranger. They talked about what had taken place in Jerusalem, and the disappointment they were experiencing, because they believed Jesus was the one who would redeem Israel. So Jesus walked and talked with them about the resurrection experience. The distance from Emmaus to Jerusalem was about 6-7 miles, however we don't know at what mile marker Jesus joined them.

The Jerusalem Appearance With The Ten Disciples, John 20:19-23

The **Same Day,**... Resurrection Day, **at Evening,** the **doors being shut,** for fear of the Jews! **Why did the disciples fear the Jews?** Because, the Jewish elders had taken counsel and gave large sums of money to the soldiers who were guarding the tomb of Jesus and saying, “Say ye, “His disciples came by night, and stole him away, while we were asleep; And if this come to the Governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.” (Mt. 28:11-14).

Verse 19, **The Same Day, at evening,** “Resurrection day” Jesus appeared to the disciples. It appears that only 10 disciples were present. Judas, had committed suicide, and Thomas, (his Hebrew name) also known as Didymus, (his Greek name) were not present. **I believe, Thomas, was a born again believer, and, an Apostle, ordained by Jesus himself;** However, after witnessing the physical abuse which Jesus endured, before and following his mock trial, the scourging before the crucifixion, and the sufferings while on the cross, including the nailing of his hands and feet to the cross. My opinion is, Thomas had trouble believing that Jesus could be alive. **The truth is Jesus did not survive the cross!** He actually, physically died, on the cross. Jesus said, “No man taketh my life from me. But I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This commandment have I received from my Father. (John 10:18-19)

So, as Jesus was dying, He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit": and having said thus, he gave up the Ghost". (Luke 23:46) The veil of the Temple rent, (Was torn) from the top to the bottom, and the dispensation of the law ended, and the dispensation of Grace began. Because every Jot and Tittle of the law had been fulfilled, in and by. Our Lord Jesus. (Mt. 5:17&18)

At this appearance, the evening of the same day that he arose, Jesus entered the room, the doors being shut: and He uttered those familiar words, "Peace be unto you!" **I think they had heard those words many times!** On the stormy sea, "Peace be still", when comforting them concerning his departure, He said, "The comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, what so ever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (Jn. 14:26-27)

Then Jesus said again, (Jn 20:21) "Peace be unto you, as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you". referencing the "Great Commission" Jesus was sent from God to establish his church, and he did! He commissioned the church, "go into all the world, and make disciples". Mt 28:18-20)

After doing this, **"He breathed on them, and said Receive ye the Holy Ghost"**. (Jn. 20:21-22) Now, this Must not be confused with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost! That took place 50 days after the resurrection. This event happened on resurrection day. This word "Breathed" is the same word used in Ge.2:7 to describe what God did to give life to Adam. "God Breathed life into his nostrils, and Adam became a living soul. And, I believe Jesus breathed life into his church, and that life is the Spirit of God. Also, That same word for breathe is used in Ezk. 37:9-10, to describe the Vision of dry bones. The prophet said, "So I prophesied, as he commanded me and the breath came into them and they lived"

The Final Appearance. The final appearance I will discuss tonight was eight days after Jesus resurrection: John 20:26-29. All other times when Jesus showed himself alive, Thomas was absent; this time he was present. Jesus being the **"Prince of Peace"** began again by saying **"Peace be unto you"**. Then, Jesus saith 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." Thomas answered. and said unto him, **"MY Lord and my God."**

Last Point in My Lesson - Why was it so important for Thomas to see the Marks of the cross? Because Psalms 22; A chapter which prophesied the sufferings of The Christ so vividly, declares in verse 16 and I quote, **"...they pierced my hands and my feet"**. I understand that the Romans who were experts in dispensing cruelty, especially in crucifying would sometimes tie their victims on the cross, which means, if the one who claimed to be Jesus, and who claimed to have risen from the dead, did not have the "Marks" and "the scars from the nails" then he could not be the Christ. However Jesus bore the marks of having nailed to the cross, and whose side had been pierced as proof of his death, yet was now showing himself alive.