

Sunday Celebration (April 18, 2010)

John 20:19-23

"I am Sending You"

Jn 20:19-23

INTRO ... The Final Frame of Christ on Earth

- Much recurring discussion of the Great Commission ... Much recurring discussion of the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Matt 28, Jn 20, Lk 24)

Jn 20:19ff ... On the Day of the Resurrection

Matt 28:18-20 ... On a Mountain in Galilee

Lk 24:46-49 ... with His disciples

Acts 1:6-9 ... at His Ascension

- The Attention now moves from "Learning to Leading" ... from "Observing to Doing" ... from "Mentoring to Mission"

The Plaques at our Entrance – ***"The Coming & Going of Christianity"***

"Come to me all who are weary & heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt 11:28-29)

=> "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matt 28:18-19)

3 Features in These Verses:

1. The Sending
2. The Receiving
3. The Forgiveness of Sins

I. THE SENDING

Jn 20:21 ... "As the Father has SENT me, I SEND You" The First (Abrupt) Topic of Discussion after "Shalom"

"Jesus has come not merely to assure them of his conquest of death and the triumph of his kingdom. He has come also to instruct and prepare them for what lies ahead. The mission about which he had taught them is now imminent and he sets them apart for it in a solemn moment of commissioning. The key to the statement is the parallel it draws between the sending of Jesus into the world by the Father and the sending of the apostolic community into the world by the risen Son. If the parallel holds good, then mission must have the same importance for the community as it had for Jesus. ... The challenge is evident. As Jesus is defined by the mission of the Father, so the church is defined by its mission to the world." **Bruce Milne**, "The Message of John", p. 298

— 6 times in John Jesus is referred to as the 'sent one'

... Jesus is Sent (LAUNCHED) on a Mission with "Intense Velocity" →
"Jesus face was set as a flint to go to Jerusalem"

... Jesus' Church is Sent (LAUNCHED) on a Mission → This is a description of "People On Their Way" – ***There is VELOCITY to Your Life... You Are Going Somewhere***

Prov 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,"

'Para' (Hebrew) – "to let loose" in the sense of "to let run wild"
(from Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament)

Ex 32:25 And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose ESV

... ***Are you living an Unrestrained Life***— If so you are available to frequently wander off into the hillside, to take the next exit following the compelling billboard

- *Where Does the Intensity Applied to the Bow Come From?* ... It Comes from the Father— "As the Father has sent ME.

- **Jn 3:16-19** ... the Sacrifice of the Father ... "For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son... God did not send his Son to condemn...

III. THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Jn 20:23

How is This Sending Relevant to the Forgiveness of Sins?

- This same thought and context is taken up in Lk 24:46-47, Acts 26:15-18

Luke 24:46-47 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Acts 26:15-18 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, 17 delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles — to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

NOTE: The Association of Forgiveness with Gospel PROCLAMATION!

“ The meaning of the passage is not that man can forgive sins that belongs only to God (Isa 43:23) ... It was not authority to forgive individuals, but to establish in all the churches the terms and conditions on which men might be pardoned, with a promise that God would confirm all that they taught; that all might have assurance of forgiveness who would comply with those terms; and that those who did not comply should not be forgiven, but that their sins should be retained. (from Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

How Does Someone Get Forgiveness for Their Sins?

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

Heb 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 2 ... "What must we do? ... Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins... and there were added that day about 3,000 souls

“ I leave the whole passage with one general word of caution. Whatever sense we place on the words, let us beware that we do not give to ministers, of any name or denomination, a place, power, authority, position, or privilege, which Christ never gave them. Putting ministers out of their proper place has been the root of endless superstition and corruption in Christ’s Church. To regard ministers as mediators between Christ and the soul, to confess to them privately and receive private absolution from them, is a system for which there is no authority in the New Testament...” **J.C. Ryle**, “Expository Thoughts on John”, vol. 3, p. 452

II. RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sending Would be Empty & Ineffective without the Emphasis and Reality of the Spirit’s Indwelling

“ And saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit - as an earnest and first-fruits of the more grand and copious Pentecostal effusion, without which it had been vain to send them at all.(from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1997, 2003 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)