

John 20:19-31

“Life In His Name”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 19-23 Receive the Holy Spirit

III. Vs. 30-31 Believing you may have

I. Intro.

Here we conclude the final event on the first Easter Sunday and then finish with days 2-8 in verses 24-31. In light of the events of the last few days of Jesus' earthly life it seems quite amazing that Jesus' first words to these fellows locked up in the upper room was "*Peace be with you.*" I think if I were Jesus I might have shown up in the room and said, "*Where have you all been?*" Except for John you will recall that all of these disciples fled and only John came to the cross, so you might have expected a rebuke from Jesus when He meets up with them but instead He offers His peace. On the first day of the resurrection four individual or groups have come forth having personally witnessed Jesus' resurrection. Then word has gotten out that Peter has also seen the Lord when we find the ten in the upper room with the doors locked for fear of the Jews.

II. Vs. 19-23 Receive the Holy Spirit

Vs. 19 Based upon Luke 24 it was evening when Jesus left the two disciples in Emmaus and here we see that the same evening He appears to the 10 disciples gathered together with the door locked for fear of the Jews seven miles away. The first reaction to this according to the other accounts was fear and when He showed them that it was really Him their fear turned to gladness. Three times in this section Jesus greets the disciples with the customary greeting of "*Shalom*". This is the resurrection gift of Jesus to all those who place their continual trust in Him, PEACE. I'm so

thankful that twice Jesus revealed His wounds to His disciples so that we know that this wasn't some were hallucination that what they saw really was the risen Lord. His body still bore the marks of His sacrifice for our sin and for all eternity it will so that we will forever be reminded of His loving sacrifice on our behalf. God the Father worked for six days and then rested and God the Son suffered on the cross for six hours and then rested.

Vs. 20-23 John tells us the main reason that He appeared to them that evening was **not** to comfort them but rather that they may receive the Holy Spirit and become **indwelt**, then in Acts they will be **immersed** in the Holy Spirit. This breathing on them was a work of recreation as Paul spoke 2 Cor. 5:17 saying *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* It is at this time that they received the 2nd of the threefold relationship with the Holy Spirit and that is the indwelling next in Acts they will receive the *"upon"* experience for empowerment to be His witnesses. In John 14:6 Jesus had said with regards to the Holy Spirit that He shall be *"IN"* them which suggests that He wasn't at that time and here we see Him breathing on them saying to them *"Receive the Holy Spirit"*.

These disciples were already following Jesus but they weren't yet *"Born Again"* as He hadn't before this died for their sins but here they become born again. What makes this interesting is that in Acts 1:8 when Jesus said Acts 1:5 *"for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* So what were they baptized into? Well Jesus told them in Acts 1:8 when He declared that they would *"receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* The new relationship with Jesus by way of the Holy Spirit granted them the opportunity to proclaim the forgiveness to those that have repented and received Jesus.

Vs. 30-31 The first thing John admits is that his account is incomplete, he makes no statement that this was a full account of all Jesus did and said instead he asserts that it was incomplete deliberately so that it would fulfill his purpose. And that purpose is that the reader would believe and that in believing they would gain life in Jesus name. On my book shelves are many biographies and in them is all the information one can gather because when someone has died that is all that remains of them is the memories. Ah but when someone writes about a living person it is only to introduce one's readers to Him and the rest will be discovered in a personal relationship with Jesus which will continue on throughout eternity. John reminds us that he has only given us a small taste of all the evidence that points to Jesus but what he gave us is ample proof that Jesus is who He claimed to be. That evidence if believed will lead to "*life in His name*". So how about it are you ready for life, tired of walking around void of life unable to see that Jesus is right next to you hearing your every word knowing your every thought, desiring to carry your burdens? So why not right now this very moment "*believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*". John wrote those words 70 years after the events and nothing had changed his position, he gained no financial reward for this, he got no royalties from his book yet with this simple truth he lets us in on the greatest opportunity any person will ever have and that is to become a child of God. Anybody who will believe it, and ask him to enter his life, will receive life:

- Life that masters sin
- Life that issues in peace
- Life that produces the beauty of holiness