The Assurance of the Upper Room

John 20:19-29

1. All Dread Disappeared – 20:19-23

A. Peace for All Seasons – 20:19-20

1. The Setting – 20:19a

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week,”

This is still the same day as the resurrection. The disciples are in, perhaps, the same upper room where they last met with Jesus. (Chapters 13-17). This may be the same upper room as the day of Pentecost.

2. The Shock – 20:19b

“when the doors were shut where the disciples were ﻿﻿assembled, for ﻿﻿fear of the Jews,”

Remember that Jesus asked that the disciples be permitted to go away when He was delivered over to the Sanhedrin. They feared that they might be next. That was a logical thought.

Note: There were more disciples there than the 12 minus Thomas. The women were there and disciples from the Emmaus road. (Luke 24:36ff)

3. The Substitution – 20:19c-20 - [Peace Replaced Fear]

“Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ﻿﻿“Peace *be* with you.” When He had said this, He ﻿﻿showed them *His* hands and His side. ﻿﻿Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.”

Jesus came into the locked room, not through the door or the walls; he just appeared in the room. That is all you can say from the evidence given.

They were frightened (terrified) at first (Luke 24:37ff). Then He showed them His hands and side. He even ate some fish to show His humanity.

And said, “Peace be with you.” Then they were glad. What a difference Jesus makes! It is a huge step in the right direction.

B. Peace for All Service(s) – 20:21-23

1. He Gave them a Position – 20:21

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“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you!” As the Father has sent Me, So send I You.

Jesus put them into His place, as sent ones. There is a connection between the Gospel and Peace: The very essence of the Gospel is peace,

Ephesians 2:17

“And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off.”

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, ﻿﻿having been justified by faith, ﻿﻿we have ﻿﻿peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”

It is called the Gospel of peace,

Ephesians 6:15

“having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”

All who preach must bring the word sent by God,

Acts 10:36

“…preaching peace through Jesus Christ.”

2. He Gave them Power – 20:22

“And when He had said this, He breathed on *them,* and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

This does not mean that: “They were saved at that point.” In John 13 He says that they had received the “bath”, they only needed to “wash-up”.

There were 50 days until Pentecost when the Holy Spirit would come and establish the church. In the meantime, they would be without Jesus’ visible presence. The Holy Spirit had been with believers up until now. He would be in them throughout the church age.

All believers, from Pentecost on, beginning at the time they believe and receive eternal life are indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9b

“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

They will never have more of the Holy Spirit. The question is not: “How much of the Holy Spirit do I have?” Rather it is, “How much of me does the Holy Spirit have?”

3. He Gave them Purpose – 20:23

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“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

First: this is spoken to all who are in the room, not just to the eleven, minus Thomas.

They all will forgive sins as they preach the Gospel. In that way, they forgive their sins. Only Jesus can forgive sins! Correct, but as we bring people to Christ, we are the means of their forgiveness,

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1 Corinthians 9:22

“I have become all things to all *men,* ﻿﻿that I might by all means save some.” (See also James 5:20 and I Tim 4:16)

II. All Doubt Disappeared – 20:24-29

A. The Doubts of Thomas Expressed – 20:24-25

1. What Thomas Missed – 20:24

“Now Thomas, ﻿﻿called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.”

Thomas apparently was not expecting the resurrection. He didn’t stay with the other disciples. He is the one who said, “Let us go with Jesus to Jerusalem and die with Him”

2. What Thomas Manifested – 20:25

“The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

The “other disciples” is not just the 11. All who followed Jesus and believed on Him were disciples as well. The tense of the verb indicates they “kept on saying” to him, “We saw the Lord,” etc.

Not only did he not believe them, He did not believe Jesus when He foretold of His resurrection. Their graphic description must have impressed him somewhat for he stayed around with them.

B. The Doubts of Thomas Exposed – 20:26-27

1. The Meeting – 26a

“And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them.”

It appears that they were in the same place. Not much has changed in 8 days, with them or with the situation in Jerusalem. With the body missing and the disciples falsely accused of stealing it, they could still have trouble form the Jews and the Romans.

2. The Master – 20:26b

“Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!”

The message is the same. It is exactly what they needed, for peace was a scarce commodity.

3. The Message – 20:27

“Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and ﻿﻿reach your hand *here,* and put *it* into My side. Do not be ﻿﻿unbelieving, but believing.”

Do you get the picture: Thomas, the big man, saying, “I will not believe unless I put my fingers into the prints of the nails and my hand in His side”. Jesus said, Go ahead, Thomas, have at it.

C. The Doubts of Thomas Expelled – 20:28-29

1. The Great Confession – 20:28

“And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Note: what Jesus does not say, He does not say, “No, Thomas, don’t say that. I am not really God. I am only an angel. You have just blasphemed”

No, Thomas was right. Jesus is all that Thomas said and more. What a confession!!

2. The Great Contrast – 20:29

“Jesus said to him, ﻿﻿“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. ﻿﻿Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed.”

Thomas’ belief was commendable. But theirs (and yours) is more commendable and Jesus pronounces a blessing on you for it. A Blessing for and you and you and you. All of you.

You see, the resurrection is The Father’s AMEN to the work of His Son on the cross. The Gospel is not complete without the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:3-4

“For ﻿﻿I delivered to you first of all that ﻿﻿which I also received:

1. that Christ died for our sins ﻿﻿according to the Scriptures,

2. and that He was buried,

3. and that He rose again the third day ﻿﻿according to the Scriptures.

Conclusion:

Isaiah 6:8

 “Whom shall I send, and who will go for ﻿﻿Us?”

Then I said, “Here *am* I! Send me.”

 1. Here

 2. I

 3. Send Me