

>>>>>> Forty Days - Lesson 03 <<<<<<<

1) Any questions or comments over anything we have covered so far?

Moving on to event 10 ...

2) **Event 10** – Jesus appears to the disciples late on the first day of the week.

a) Apparently, from what we read in Luke **and** John’s continuation of the story, Jesus himself appears to the group,

i) This also, includes the two disciples returning from Emmaus.

b) Reading the two accounts, John’s (the shorter one) first.

**John 20:19–23 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>19</sup> Now when it was evening on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were *together* due to fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, “**Peace be to you.**” <sup>20</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “**Peace be to you; just as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**” <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, *their sins* have been forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they have been retained.**”

c) Now, from Luke ...

**Luke 24:36–49 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>36</sup> Now while they were telling these things, *Jesus* Himself *suddenly* stood in their midst and said to them, “**Peace be to you.**” <sup>37</sup> But they were startled and frightened, and thought that they were looking at a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, “**Why are you frightened, and why are doubts arising in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you *plainly* see that I have.**” <sup>40</sup> And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and astonishment, He said to them, “**Have you anything here to eat?**” <sup>42</sup> They served Him a piece of broiled fish; <sup>43</sup> and He took it and ate *it* in front of them.

<sup>44</sup> Now He said to them, “**These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all the things that are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**” <sup>45</sup> Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and He said to them, “**So it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for**

forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

- 3) Lets stay in the Luke passage for the moment.
  - a) We must look carefully at a few important things that we see here.
  - b) First, Jesus is standing there telling them and showing them that he is a real flesh and blood resurrected Christ.
  - c) He even eats in front of them as further proof that he is not a “spirit”.
  - d) Jesus is definitely flesh, blood, and bone – of that there is not doubt!
    - i) Though, not as we are since he can still “transport” through walls (stood among them) and change his appearance as witnessed by Cleopas and the other disciple at Emmaus. – BUT! They still do NOT BELIEVE!
    - ii) Most translations of verse 41 are difficult to get our minds wrapped around.

#### Luke 24:41 (NASB 2020)

<sup>41</sup> While they still could not believe *it* because of their joy and astonishment...

- iii) The idea I think may be how one would feel when winning the power ball!
- iv) The LABC I think really catches the true idea in their comment:

This was too good to be true—and they experienced the conflicting emotions of disbelief, doubt, joy, and wonder that any person would have when a most desired, but seemingly most impossible, wish actually comes true

- e) Jesus then begins a very short and concise statement and concludes with some instructions about what they must do and what is now expected of them.
- f) The next important thing to note here is what we see injected by Luke in the middle of Jesus’ quote:

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

- g) This to me was the beginning of what really takes place over the next 39 days.
  - h) This is the starting point of the transformation of these men and women into what they need to be.
- 4) Returning to John’s account of the meeting with the disciples we see a somewhat different narrative yet there are no major discrepancies.
  - 5) However, we do see TWO very interesting (and, somewhat puzzling) statement in verse 22 and 23.

**John 20:22-23 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.”

- a) The believers would receive the baptism of the Spirit at Pentecost and be empowered for ministry.
- b) We must remember that the sending of God's Spirit is not just a one time operation.
  - i) So to say here that this conflicts with the baptism of the Spirit at Pentecost is not correct.
- c) God's (and Christ's) sending of the Holy Spirit is a continuous thing, being done constantly in all generations, and to benefit each new recipient of salvation.
- d) As I said a moment ago, this was the beginning of what really takes place over the next 39 days.
- e) Whether we see it as Luke did – opening their minds – or as John did – breathing the Holy Spirit upon them is to me, really simply a matter of semantics.
  - i) As one further point regarding this; one would think knowing the history of these men that opening their minds may have only been possible thru the Holy Spirit – just a thought.
- f) Now, regarding verse 23.
- g) The disciples were being sent to preach the good news of salvation to the entire world.
- h) They were not given the power to forgive sins (only God can forgive sins).
- i) What Jesus gives here is the privilege of telling new believers that their sins have been forgiven.
  - i) They can do this because the person accepts Jesus because of the Gospel they preached.
  - ii) The LABC makes a very true comment regarding this:

We as believers have this same privilege. We can announce the forgiveness of sin with certainty when we ourselves repent and believe. Those who don't believe will not experience the forgiveness of sins; their sins will be retained (i.e., not forgiven).<sup>1</sup>

***Questions/Comments?***

- 6) At this point, Luke reports no more of Jesus' activity during the 40 days until the ascension.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bruce B. Barton, *John*, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1993), 397.

7) This brings us down to the rest of John’s account, Acts, and Paul’s references in the first Corinthian letter to round out the events of the 40 days.

**8) Event 11 – Jesus appears to Thomas with the other disciples.**

- a) From John’s account of Event 10, Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to them all in Event 10.
- b) When they told him he would not believe.
- c) Thus, we have the next appearance event – Jesus appears to Thomas and the others 8 days later.

**John 20:24–29 (NASB 2020)**

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas *was* with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “*Peace be to you.*” <sup>27</sup> Then He said to Thomas, “*Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer.*” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “*Because you have seen Me, have you now believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.*”

- d) Thomas stood squarely in disbelief.
  - i) In his defense, he was not part of the experience of having their minds opened to the understanding either.
- e) His demanding of proof was a show of true lack of faith which is a disappointment to his fellow disciples.
- f) It may have also been a disappointment to Jesus.
- g) When Jesus appears, He speaks to Thomas in the imperative – strong suggestions or commands – Put ... ! place ... ! see and behold ...!
- h) It is not insignificant to note here that Thomas, though he demanded these proofs, did not need them. When he sees, he believes!
- i) Jesus concludes with an equally emphatic statement – “do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer”

**Are we ever “Doubting Thomas’s”?**

**How do we exhibit our doubts and make our demands?**

- a) This concludes the events in Jerusalem for now.
- b) The disciples are now going to return to Galilee...

**9) Event 12 – Going back to Galilee**

- a) This is an event that is not directly recorded in the Gospels.
- b) We see reference to Peter and John going home which, if taken literally, would indicate that they went back to Capernaum which, is of course, is in Galilee.
- c) We do know that Jesus' instruction to the women on the way back from the tomb were:

**Matthew 28:10 (NASB 2020)**

“Do not be afraid; go, bring word to My brothers **to leave for Galilee**, and there they will see Me.”

- d) We also know that the angel sitting on the stone told the women when they arrived at the tomb that Jesus would **meet them in Galilee**.

**Matthew 28:7 (NASB 2020)**

“7 ... go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

- e) Finally, we know that even though the women did deliver these instructions
- f) For whatever reason, they did not leave immediately.
- g) We know from what we saw in the last event that at least some of them were still together eight days later when Jesus appears to very pointedly convince Thomas of His resurrection.
- h) They must have left sometime after that because, our very next event takes place by the Sea of Galilee.
- i) And, as we will see, at least 7 of the disciples are there.