

- ° Last time we talked about the disciples meeting Jesus in Galilee.
 - They decided to go fishing while they waited for Jesus to arrive; We ended with;

Jn 21:12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

- They were still having trouble recognizing Jesus at this time.



Jn 21:13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

- ° Those who want to find errors in the bible say this is an error because He was also seen by Mary Magdalene, Peter & James earlier; seen more than three times.
 - This obviously isn't the third time He's been seen after the resurrection, but the third time He's been seen by the Apostles as a group.
 - This verse does let us know He wasn't seen by them on the road to Galilee, or while they were waiting for Him in Galilee before going fishing.

- ° Jesus is about to deal with Peter's abandonment from the night He was arrested.
 - All eleven of the disciples left Jesus for fear that night, but in his pride, Peter boasted he was more loyal than the others.

Mk 14:27-29 Then Jesus said to them, All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' ... ²⁹Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be." *Lk 22:33* I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.

- Satan planed to make the disciples fall that night, so Jesus prayed for them; *Lk 22:31-33*.
 - Peter was so sure of himself & his own strength & dedication to Jesus.
 - If we trust in our own strength, inevitably we will fall.

Prov 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

- Self confidence is a characteristic of the flesh, Instead, our attitude should be;

Eph 6:10 Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Isa 40:29-31, 41:10; Josh 1:9; 2Cor 3:4-5, 12:9-10; Col 1:11; Eph 3:16.

Jn 21:15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs."

- ° Peter's three loud denials of Jesus on that night have disqualified him from being in Jesus' service as an Apostle, his salvation is not what's in question.

Mk 16:7 But go, tell His disciples, and Peter, that He is going before you into Galilee

- ° Jesus asks Peter if he still thinks his love is greater than the other disciples love.
 - Jesus is leading Peter to reaffirm his confession of love for Him, after his denial.
 - In this encounter, we see Jesus bring Peter back into fellowship & service to God.



¹⁶He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said

to him *the third time*, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep.

- ° In this exchange we see Jesus calling Peter back into His service; (Not salvation).
 - Jesus is lovingly, but strongly, confronting Peter’s denial & falling away from Him.
 - This event I believe is an excellent example of the chastening Jesus uses to return any stray Christian to fellowship & service.
 - Look at how Peter is affected at Jesus’ confrontation;
 - Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?”*
 - Peter’s heart is broken before Jesus, & he responds with a good confession;
 - Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.*
 - Jesus did just the opposite of what many Christians today believe about chastisement.
 - Jesus didn’t sink Peter’s boat, He didn’t make him go bankrupt, He didn’t take his wife or kids in some horrible accident to get him to repent.
 - What did Jesus do? He blessed him by filling his boat with a huge catch of fish.
 - He spent time with him, talked with him & had breakfast with him.

Rom 2:4 *do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?* Not the rod; not punishment; LOVE!

- Jesus lovingly brought Peter directly to the point; Do you love me?
 - Peter had a decision to make; reaffirm his faithfulness to Jesus, or live a defeated Christian life unusable to God.
- Rev 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.*
- Jesus just lovingly brought him to that point by love & the Holy Spirit.
 - This is how Jesus disciplines us after the cross; This is the chastening of the Lord.

Jn 21:18 *Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go. ¹⁹This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God. And after saying this he said to him, Follow me.*



The Apostle Peter crucified upside down
Rome, AD 69

- ° Peter had boasted in Luke’s gospel he would go to his death for Jesus; Lk 22:33.
 - Now Jesus tells him that will surely happen; but despite that; “Follow me.”

²⁰*Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them, the one who also had leaned back against him during the supper and had said, Lord, who is it that is going to betray you? ²¹When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, Lord, what about this man? ²²Jesus said to him, If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow me!*

- ° To be told by Jesus that you will be crucified for His sake, would be disturbing news.
 - Our walk with Jesus is personal; between you & Jesus; just follow where Jesus leads.

²³*So the saying spread abroad among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he was not to die, but, “If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?”*

- ° It’s an interesting fact that John was the last Apostle to die; which probably has nothing to do with this conversation.

Jn 21:24 This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

- ° John was well known & loved at Ephesus, having lived there with Jesus mother Mary.
 - He's writing his gospel from there, & they knew him & his faithfulness.
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25 Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

- ° This statement is more true than we can imagine;
 - There is a story in every person's heart concerning Jesus; whether he believes or not.
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Back in Jerusalem; The bible doesn't tell us exactly at what point they all returned from Galilee to Jerusalem.

Mt 28:18 Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

This statement is arguably one of the most important statements in the bible!

- Never forget; EVERY knee will bow & EVERY tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!
- Jesus left the cross victorious, & entered Hades triumphant over death; freeing all those faithful saints waiting for their Messiah.
 - Death could not hold Him because He alone had overcome this world, & earned the authority He now has.
- ° God gave Adam the authority over all the earth;

Gen 1:26 God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

- *Dominion- Gk= to rule over, subdue, trample; To exercise authority over.*
- Adam foolishly relinquished that authority to Satan when he believed him & not God.
- At that moment Satan became the "god of this world"; *2Cor 4:4.*
- Jesus never once gave in to fleshly desires or Satan's lies, & won back the authority.
 - Those who refuse to believe in Jesus remain under Satan's grasp & dominion.
 - Those who believe in Jesus & confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord are set free from that dominion & Satan's hold over them.

Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

- Believers now live & operate in Jesus' kingdom, under His authority.
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Lk 24:44 He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,

- ° This is a great prayer request; ask God to *open our minds to understand the scriptures.*
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46 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. You are witnesses of these things.

Mt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

- ° Jesus is summarizing the gospel & giving the Great Commission to the Disciples.
 - The 3 synoptic gospels; *Mt, Mk, Lk*, all give some version of the Great Commission.
 - John's whole gospel is written so that whoever reads it will believe; *Jn 20:30.*
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Mk 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

- ° This verse is not stating that all those who are not baptized will be condemned.



- Again, it's important that we always look at the "whole council of God".
- Rom 10:9-10; Mt 10:32-33; Lk 12:8; Jn 3:15-16, 6:40, 11:25-26; Acts 16:31; 2Cor 5:19-21; 1Jn 4:2-3 & 9-10; 1Pet 1:21; Rev 1:5.

¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.

- o These aren't the five fold ministry gifts, these are attributes of; *those who believe!*
- Picking up serpents & drinking poison aren't to be done to prove your spiritual.



Pastor dies in rattlesnake attack at church.

- But believers should have no fear of these things if they are done unaware; Acts 28:3.

Mt 28:20b *And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

- o God has been telling us for thousands of years, He will always be with His faithful.
Deut 31:6, 8; Josh 1:5, 9; 1Kng 8:57; 1Chr 28:20; Ps 37:28, 94:14; Isa 41:17, 42:16; Heb 13:5.

Lk 24:50 *Then he led them out as far as Bethany and lifting up his hands he blessed them.*

- o This verse is important because it tells us He ascended from the mountain at Bethany.
- That mountain is the Mount of Olives where He will come to when He returns.

Zech 14:4 *And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the East...*

We pick up the story in Acts for some of the details.

Acts 1:1 *The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ²until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,*

- o This is Luke's second book in the bible; Acts.

³*to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

- o Here is the last mention of any question concerning Jesus' identity after the resurrection.
- *By many infallible proofs*; None of the Apostles doubts remained about Jesus.
 - Luke states them as; *infallible proofs*, leaving no question to Jesus' identity.

⁴*And He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard of me. ⁵For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

- o Jesus began referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the night He was arrested.
- That is the day the Church begins, with 3000 people being saved when Peter preaches.

⁶*When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷And he said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.*

- o They still don't understand God's plan of redemption for mankind at this time.
- They have been taught all their lives that the Messiah would reign as king, from David's throne in Israel, restoring Israel's power & glory.
- o Most Christians, 2000 years later, still don't understand what God has in store for us.

- The time of His return is unknown, but we are to remain faithfully watching for it.

⁸*But you shall 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 reason anyone receives the Holy Spirit is to spread the gospel more effectively; to glorify God, to be used by Him in His plan of redemption for mankind.

⁹*Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ^{Lk 24:51} And He was carried up into heaven ^{Mk 16:19} and sat down at the right hand of God.*

- ° This is where Jesus is today; the book of Hebrews explains this so well.

^{Ac 1:10} *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. ^{Lk 24:52} And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.*

- ° Jesus’ earthly ministry is complete; He left this earth, but has given **us** the job & authority to go tell everyone about what He did for us.



^{Jn 20:30} *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

- ° The purpose of the gospel is to bring people to Jesus, & into God’s kingdom.
 - It’s our job to be witnesses of this good news to the world.
 - It’s then their decision to believe.