

Introduction: A case could be made that the three days of Good Friday, Silent Saturday, and Resurrection Sunday are the three most important days ever. Concerning these days, The Resurrection of The Savior is impossible without His Death on the Cross; and, His Death on the Cross is ineffective without His Resurrection. Both are necessary parts of The Gospel good news of what God has done to reconcile people to Himself, and put an end to death which is the consequence of the sins and disobedience of people. (*Romans 6:20-23*) The heart of The Gospel and these three days is the ransom-death of Jesus. *** When the sons of Zebedee, James and John, came to Jesus to request places of privilege after He came into His Glory, He asked them if they could share in His suffering and death for people. Then He concluded, 'The Son of Man came ... to give His life as a ransom for many'. (*Mark 10:35-45; Matthew 20:20-28*) The Father and His Son, Jesus The Savior, worked out their plan of reconciliation through death and resurrection to show their mercy toward sinners who recognize their sin and cry out in desperation for mercy. (*Luke 18:9-14*) *** This is the background for our passage which takes place at the end of the day on Resurrection Sunday. Many disciples of Jesus are gathered trying to make sense of the amazing events that have happened since the dawn of the day. They want to believe Jesus The Savior is alive, but it seems too good to be true! *** As they are recounting to each other their stories of the day, Jesus miraculously materializes to them to make sense of everything. *** Finally, He charges them to carry His Mission to completion; and, He commands them to wait for the gift of The Holy Spirit to give them power to do God's Will for them.

I. Their eyes were opened after He took the bread and broke it; and they said, 'Our hearts burned as He opened the Scriptures'. (*Verses 30-32*)

- A. While reclining at the table with the two disciples journeying to Emmaus, Jesus blessed the bread and, giving it to them, their eyes were opened and He became invisible! (*Verses 30-31*)
1. The third time (*Luke 9:13-16; 22:14-19*) The Bread from heaven did five things with bread for His disciples. (*Verse 30*)
 - i. The disciples were reclining (sitting). (recline, sit, recline)
 - ii. He took bread. (same word all three times)
 - iii. He blessed (gave thanks for) the bread. (good word, good grace, good word)
 - iv. He broke the bread. (broke, broke in pieces, broke)
 - v. He gave the bread. (same word all three times)
 2. Their eyes were opened, they knew Him, and He became invisible to them. (*Verse 31*)
Divine passive: The two disciples who had gone to Emmaus did not 'open their eyes' to finally see Jesus. Instead, their 'eyes were opened' (by God)!
- B. They said to each other, 'Our hearts were burning on the road as He talked with us and opened the Scriptures to us. (*Verse 32*)
Word a fire: Through the prophet Jeremiah, Yahweh compared His Word to a purifying fire. After He describes the evil of His people and the false prophets among them (*Jeremiah 23:9-17*), and the whirlwind of His wrath that will come on their stubborn hearts (*Jeremiah 23:18-27*), He says, 'Is not My Word like fire, says [Yahweh], and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces' (*Jeremiah 23:28*).

II. In Jerusalem the Eleven told them, 'The Lord has risen indeed'; then Jesus Himself stood among them saying, 'Peace!', startling them until He showed them His hands and feet. (*Verses 33-40*)

- A. They returned to Jerusalem that hour and found the Eleven who said, 'The Lord has risen and appeared to Peter'; they reported: The Lord was made known to us in the breaking of the bread'. (*Verses 33-35*)
1. Getting up at that hour, the men returned to Jerusalem and found the Eleven and those with them. (*Verse 33*)
Jesus had many disciples: Luke had said Jesus had more than seventy-two disciples (*Luke 10:1*). After Jesus was taken up, one hundred twenty brothers gathered to pray (*Acts 1:15*). After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to more than five hundred brothers at the same time (*I Corinthians 15:6*).
 2. Those in Jerusalem told the two men that The Lord has indeed risen and appeared to Simon (Peter). (*Verse 34*)
 3. Then the two narrated what happened on the way and how He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (*Verse 35*)
Back to bread: We come back to Jesus, The Bread of Life (*John 6:35*), again.
- B. While they were talking about this, Jesus stood in their midst and said, 'Peace!' and they were frightened; and He said, 'Why are you all doubting, see My hands and feet: I AM!' (*Verses 36-40*)
1. But, as they were talking on this, He stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you all'. (*Verse 36*)
 2. Becoming startled and fearful, they were thinking they saw a spirit. (*Verse 37*)
 3. And He said to them, 'Why are you all troubled on account of doubts rising in your hearts?' (*Verse 38*)
 4. Look at My hands and My feet that I AM Myself'. (*Verse 39a*)
Divine Name: Jesus emphatically uses THE Divine Name for Himself. And He challenges them to see the evidence of His death. This sudden unexplainable appearance to them is a striking demonstration He is alive! Just as He had suddenly left the two disciples in Emmaus, He suddenly appears to them again as they are with His disciples in Jerusalem!
 5. Touch Me and see, a spirit is not having flesh and bones as you see I, Myself, have. (*Verse 39b*)
 6. And having said this, He showed them the hands and the feet. (*Verse 40*)
Pause: They now have clear evidence The Lord they are seeing had been on The Cross, and therefore had been dead. Many had seen the crucifixion. Now He can materialize His body in the middle of a room instantly. How would we feel IF He appeared to us now in this manner? We would be in shock!

III. Jesus said He fulfilled ALL Scripture; and, said His suffering, death, resurrection, and repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached after being ‘clothed from on high’. (Verses 41-49)

- A. Jesus reminded His disciples, unable to overcome unbelief, He fulfilled ALL Scripture. (Verses 41-44)
1. The joy and amazement of seeing their Lord alive left them still in unbelief [that He was indeed risen from the dead. It was too good to be true!] (Verse 41a)
 2. He asks for food and they give Him some broiled fish, and having taken, He eats in front of them. (Verses 41b-43)
 3. And He said to them, ‘These are My words, what I said to you all while still being with you all: (Verses 44ab)
 4. That ALL things written about Me in *Moses* and the *Prophets* and *Psalms* concerning Me must be fulfilled’. (Verses 44c-e)
TeNahK: Jesus is referring to the acronym for the Hebrew division of Scripture: (T)orah, (Nah)veem, (K)ethavim. The English for these words is: Instruction, Prophets (both those who wrote history [e.g. *Joshua*] and those who spoke Yahweh’s words of correction [e.g. *Isaiah*]), and Writings (wisdom books and post-exilic books ending with *Chronicles*). All of these books have something to say about Him – The Messiah-Savior.
- B. Then He told them to preach His suffering, death, resurrection, and repentance to forgiveness of sins to all nations after being ‘clothed from on high’. (Verses 45-49)
1. Then He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, ‘This is what has been written: (Verses 45-46a)
Miracle and teaching: To prepare them to have their misunderstandings of Scripture corrected, He had to divinely (miraculously) open their minds much wider! Once He did this He began to teach them from Scripture.
 2. The Christ (Messiah-King) to suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. (Verse 46b)
 3. And to preach from His Name repentance into forgiveness of sins to ALL the nations beginning from Jerusalem. (Verse 47)
First and last word: In the beginning of this Gospel, Luke told how John (the baptizer) prepared the way for Jesus by preaching a baptism for repentance into forgiveness of sins (these same words, *Luke 3:3*). Jesus said He came to call sinners to repentance (*Luke 5:32*). Jesus also said heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents (*Luke 15:7*). And now, in His final teaching of the Gospel, Jesus comes back to where John began.

Through Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection ALL may repent into forgiveness of sin

4. You all are witnesses of these. (Verse 48)
5. Look! I, I am sending what My Father has promised upon you all; but, all of you all stay in the city until you all have been “clothed from on high”: power’! (Verse 49)

Historical precedent: Jesus is here referring to power from The Holy Spirit. The book of *Judges* tells us The Spirit of Yahweh ‘clothed’ Gideon in about 1200 BC (*Judges 6:34*) to empower him to deliver Israel from a confederacy of hostile foreign nations.

Strong language: When they receive The Holy Spirit, and His power, Jesus’ disciples can fulfill His Will expressed in His last command: to be His witnesses and to make disciples of the people of all nations. (*Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20*)

We can do God’s Will IF we receive His Spirit

IV. The Holy Spirit gives power to witness to God’s Gospel.

- A. From the TeNahK (Old Testament).
1. Yahweh spoke through His prophet Joel about the times in which we are living.
Joel: After He has restored the land and worked wonders for His People, Yahweh will pour out His Spirit on all people and men and women will prophesy. There will be wonders before the great and dreadful ‘Day of Yahweh’, but whoever calls on His Name shall be delivered. (*Joel 2:28-32*)
 2. It takes power from Yahweh’s Spirit to declare the sins of His people.
Micah: The Holy Spirit gave Micah power to say, ‘I am filled with power and The Spirit of [Yahweh] ... with justice and might, fearlessly pointing out Israel’s sin and rebellion’. (*Micah 3:8, NLT*)
- B. From John’s Gospel.
1. In The Upper Room at the Last Passover, Jesus said the disciples would receive The Spirit to remind them of all He had taught them. [Note: This is how we got The Gospels and New Testament.] (*John 14:16-26*)
 2. And with the last words of our passage, Jesus is telling His disciples that He is in the process of sending the promised Holy Spirit to empower His disciples to do His Will to witness to Him. (*John 15:26-27*)

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- C. From The Acts of the Apostles.
- Jesus’ last words on earth:** Just before He ascended back to His Father, Jesus told His apostles, ‘You shall receive power when The Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth’. (*Acts 1:8, NAS*)

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Conclusion: At the end of an amazing day, as Jesus’ disciples try to make sense of His resurrection, He comes to them miraculously, opens their minds to understand Scripture, and charges them to preach as witnesses of repentance into forgiveness of sins. But, before they go to the nations they must stay where they are until they are clothed with power from The Holy Spirit. [God’s Will is that everyone know Him and His Son, The Savior]

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