



John 20:17-23, Lesson #55

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The common touch is so important today! The child wants to touch the hands of his parents to feel secure and safe...and it can't be duplicated by anyone else. The loving touch of a husband/wife relationship can't be duplicated by anyone else.

John 20:17-18, Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

- The “Do not cling to me” (KJV) “Do not touch me” causes some confusion as to what Jesus meant.
 - ✓ Some think Jesus told Mary not to touch Him in any way, as if her contact would somehow defile Him.
 - ✓ Yet the sense is that Mary immediately held on to Jesus and did not want to let Him go.
- This shows that the resurrection body of Jesus was different, yet similar to His pre-resurrection body. It was definitely real and tangible, and Jesus was not a phantom.
- Jesus had a woman as being the first witness of His resurrection. The law courts of that day would not recognize the testimony of a woman, but Jesus did.

How would you like this to be the custom here in America?

Letting her know of His coming ascension let the disciples (and us) know He was raised never to die again.

- “We shall all be changed. We shall all be raised...never to die again.”
- It is touching that Jesus referred to His disciples – those who had all forsaken Him, except for John – as His **brethren**.
- It’s also touching that Mary understood exactly who He meant.

A Note to Remember: Spurgeon, well-known Biblical scholar stated, “I do not remember that the Lord Jesus ever called his disciples his “brethren” until that

time. He called them ‘servants’; he called them ‘friends’; but now that he has risen from the dead, he says, ‘my brethren.’”

My Father and your Father, My God and your God...has a great message to us. He says not ‘Our Father’: in one sense therefore, He is mine, in another sense He is yours; by nature mine, by grace yours... my God, under whom I also am as a man; your God—you have a mediator (Jesus, the Son) between the Father God and you.” (Augustine)

Oh...to know that our God loves us as sons and daughters! He has a special relationship with His Son (Jesus) and a loving relationship with His adopted sons and daughters...that, my friends, is you and me!

John 20:19-23, Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, 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. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The same day at evening:

- **A Special Day: We all have special days!** Whether a birthday or an anniversary, we acknowledge those days as “special.”
- This took place on the same day that the tomb was found empty and Mary met the resurrected Jesus.
- **We are told of five appearances of Jesus on the resurrection day.**
 - ✓ To Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18).
 - ✓ To the other women (Matthew 28:9-10).
 - ✓ To the two on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-32).
 - ✓ To Peter (Luke 24:33-35, 1 Corinthians 15:5).
 - ✓ To ten of the disciples, Thomas being absent (John 20:19-23).

Where the disciples were assembled:

- *It was good that the disciples stayed together. Jesus told them that when He departed they must love one another, which assumes that they would stay together (John 15:17).*

When the doors were shut:

- *The sense is not only that the doors were **shut**...but secured and locked against any unwelcome entry.*

- **The idea is that the room was secure when suddenly Jesus came and stood in the midst.**
 - ✓ We aren't told how Jesus entered the room, but the sense is that it was not in any normal way and that He seemed to simply appear.
 - ✓ This strange and miraculous appearance of Jesus apparently was to demonstrate that resurrection bodies are not subject to the same limitations as our present bodies.
 - ✓ Since we will be raised in the same manner as Jesus (Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 15:42-45), this gives us some hint of the nature of our future body in the resurrection.

Peace be with you: Our Master came to his cowardly, faithless disciples, and stood in the midst of them, uttering the cheering salutation, 'Peace be unto you!'

He showed them His hands and His side:

- Jesus assured the disciples and others (Luke 24:33) that He was actually Jesus of Nazareth and that He was really raised from the dead.
- Two different times he states, "**Peace to you!**" The repetition of this promise makes this gift of **peace** much larger and more significant:
 - ✓ My sins are forgiven – peace.
 - ✓ The slavery to sin is broken – peace.
 - ✓ My Savior takes my fears and cares – peace.
 - ✓ My life is settled for eternity – peace.

As the Father has sent Me, I also send you: Jesus gave His disciples a mission, to continue His work on this earth.

Receive the Holy Spirit:

- Jesus gave His disciples the Holy Spirit, bringing new life and the ability to carry out their mission.
- **This was connection between this breathing on the disciples and when at creation God breathed life into man.**
 - ✓ This was a work of re-creation, even as God breathed life into the first man.
 - ✓ This is where the disciples were born again.

"The breathing upon them was meant to convey the impression that His very own Spirit was imparted to them." **They were "Baptized (Saturated) in the Holy Spirit's presence.**

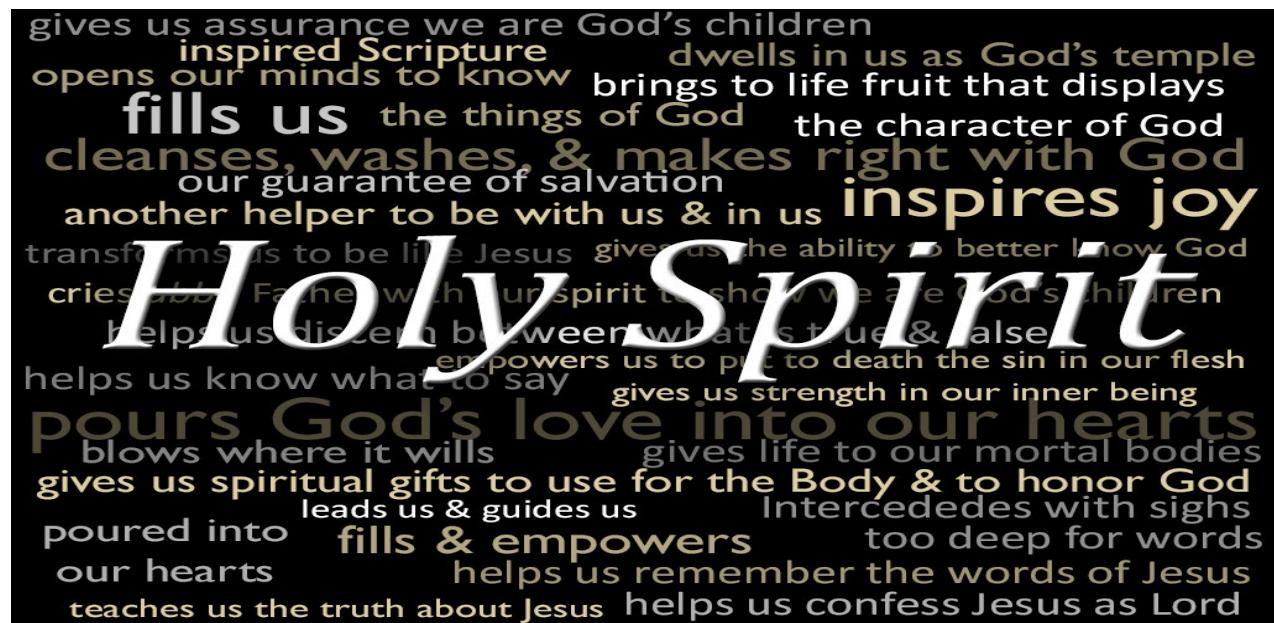
- Jesus gave His disciples authority to announce forgiveness and to warn of guilt, as authorized by the Holy Spirit (the Holy Spirit convicts). We

can say that Peter's preaching on Pentecost (*Acts 2:38*) was an exercise of this promised power to announce forgiveness of sins.

Jesus wants to continue this fourfold ministry of assurance, mission, the Holy Spirit and authority to His people today.

What happened when the Holy Spirit (the person) was sent to us by Jesus?

Give us your interpretation as to why everything was turned over to the Holy Spirit...to teach us, to convict us, to live with us, to baptize us in His power.



References and Acknowledgements:

Much of today's lesson came from messages/session Gerald taught 20 or more years ago; i.e. Sunday Schools lessons From the Past

- <https://enduringword.com>; 1996–present *The Enduring Word Bible Commentary by David Guzik Enduring Word Bible Commentary John Chapter 20*
- Bing Icons and Images section, Jesus Appearance to Mary; The Holy Spirit's Work
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