

Remnant Life Church

April 27, 2025

The Final Blessings

Luke 24:13-35

Last Sunday, we celebrated once again the miraculous and history-changing event that was the resurrection of Jesus Christ

- We defended the truth of the resurrection by considering 4 points of argument – The F.E.A.T. of what took place
 - F – the fatality of the crucifixion
 - E – the empty tomb
 - A – the appearances
 - T – the transformation that took place in all who encountered Jesus
- And those who were transformed most dramatically were the ones who were the closest to Him
 - John – having witnessed first-hand what Jesus endured on the cross had the emotional and intellectual assurance of who Jesus was
 - Peter – the leader of the 12 who denied even knowing Jesus not once, but three times, received the emotional and spiritual transformation of forgiveness
- And even from the cross in the midst of the excruciating agony, Jesus demonstrated the love of the Father
 - He was concerned for the welfare of His mother ([John 19:26](#))
 - He ministered to the one thief ([Luke 23:43](#))
 - And He forgave those who were facilitating His murder ([Luke 23:34](#))
- We had also looked together on Good Friday at the emotional agony Jesus faced in the Garden of Gethsemane, leading to the physical and spiritual agony of the cross

This morning, I would like for us to discover the final blessings Jesus presented to His followers before returning to His Father

And these blessing are still ours to receive today

Jesus' ministry was about blessing

- But in order to understand how He blessed, we must first examine our own definition of blessing
- Webster gives multiple meanings of the word depending on the context
 - Approving of something (a spoken blessing over a marriage)
 - A spoken word or action (the blessing of a meal/or a spoken blessing by a minister)
 - Something conducive to happiness or the welfare of a person (what a blessing that was to me)
- BUT...in every use of the word in both the Old and New Testaments, the word never refers to wealth
 - It can be used to mean prosperity, but that applies to every area of life

- Certainly not just in finances or possessions
- In fact, Jesus taught just the opposite of the perverted teaching that is taking place today by some of the most well-known preachers in our country

READ - Matt 19:16-26

- Jesus was not condemning wealth, only a heart and a desire that makes it the most important priority
 - And the disciples, after this encounter, ask a question we too should ask – How can we do this? Who can get into heaven?
 - The way to answer that is to ask yourself a question
 - Can I be content with little, as well as with much?
 - This is what Paul asked the church in Philippi by how he had learned to live (Phil 4:12)
 - Paul's secret was living in Christ - *I can do all this through him who gives me strength.* (Phil 4:13)
- Jesus blessed all those He came in contact with, but not once did He make anyone wealthy
 - As always, I strongly caution you against embracing this teaching
 - It is a twisted theology that is based on ignorance of the Word, greed and pursuing the satisfactions of the world

But now, what about the time after the resurrection?

- Jesus appeared to nearly 600 people before ascending back to heaven from the Mount of Olives with His disciples there as witnesses (Luke 24:50-53)
- Among those He appeared to
 - Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-17)
 - Some of the other women who were His followers -unnamed (Matt 28:9-11)
 - Peter (Luke 24:34)
 - Seven of the disciples who were fishing (John 21:1-23)
 - Eleven of the disciples together when they were sharing a meal together (Mark 16:14)
 - Over 500 (I Cor 15:6)

And during those final 40 days of Jesus in human form, He was still blessing those around Him...

1. The Blessing of His Presence

- a. This blessing is a reflection of one of the names for Jesus – Emmanuel
- b. Which means “God with us” (Matt 1:23)

READ - Luke 24:13-35

- c. In this account, Jesus gives the two men a refresher course on Messianic prophecy

- i. God allowed them to see who Jesus was, but it was what He did that triggered their memories of Him
- ii. **Luke 24:30** - *He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them*
- iii. What was it that Jesus did at the last supper?
 - 1. **Luke 22:19** – *And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them...*
 - 2. Jesus not only reminded them of the Scripture but reminded them of Himself
- d. The blessing of His presence brought hope, joy, and comfort to all those who followed Him
- e. That same hope, joy, and comfort is found in His presence with each of us today

2. The Blessing of His Peace

- a. The prophet Isaiah calls the coming Messiah the “Prince of Peace” (**Isa 9:6**)
- b. He was not only Peace Himself, but He gave His peace to others
 - i. In **Luke 10** Jesus sent His disciples and 72 others out to do the work of the Kingdom (preach, heal, cast out demons)
 - ii. Told them to take nothing with them but to trust God to supply through the kindness of others
 - iii. He told them to enter and say “*Peace be to this house.*”
 - 1. If peace is there in their hearts, then God’s peace would rest on them
 - 2. If not, then His peace would return to the disciple
 - 3. Jesus was the provider of the peace
- c. Jesus calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee with the words, *Peace, be still!* (**Mk 4:35-39**)
- d. As Jesus’ first words to the disciples when He entered the room in their presence for the first time was, *Peace be with you* (**John 14:27**)
- e. The problem in our world today is that too many people, Christians included, look for peace in the wrong places
 - i. Alcohol, drugs, tobacco, sex, food, the internet, television, possessions, their job
 - ii. Anything that gives a sense of control (which, by the way, is the world’s primary definition of peace)
 - iii. But that is a false peace that may last only for a moment or a very short time but always comes with consequences
- f. There is no true, lasting peace apart from Jesus
 - i. John records that Jesus talks about what is to come and how the disciples would desert Him – then He says...
 - ii. *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.* (**John 16:33**)
 - iii. The peace of Jesus overcomes the circumstances of the world

3. The Blessing of His Provision

- a. This may seem like a strange point given what we said earlier

- b. But understand that Jesus did care for the NEEDS of the people
- c. Recognize the difference between God supplying your needs and God supplying your wants
 - i. Therein lies the twistedness of prosperity preaching – it forces those two things together
 - ii. When Jesus was on the shore of Galilee and 7 of the disciples were fishing but catching nothing
 - iii. It was likely due to the fact that they had forsaken the assignment Jesus had given them to be fishers of men
 - iv. It is always counterproductive, and sometimes even dangerous, to go against what God calls us to do (and if you're not convinced of that read that short story in the Old Testament about a man named Jonah)
 - v. But Jesus still had compassion and told them to throw out their nets on the other side
 - vi. The blessing of His provision in that moment was so great that the nets almost tore ([John 21:1-13](#))
 - vii. Paul writes in [Phil 4:19](#) - *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*
 - viii. But just as Jesus prayed in the garden, so too our prayer for the needs of our lives should be, not my will but Your will be done.

There was the blessing of His presence, the blessing of His peace, the blessing of His provision...

4. The Blessing of Power

- a. Jesus gave the disciples power through the Holy Spirit to continue His work ([John 20:22-23](#))
- b. And the power of God in our lives today is represented by the presence of the Holy Spirit
- c. It is the same power Jesus had through His Father
 - i. In [Acts 10](#) we read about a man named Cornelius
 - 1. He was a Roman soldier who became a believer in Jesus and is the first Gentile convert recorded
 - 2. He becomes the representative of all Gentiles who were hungry to hear and know the truth of Jesus Christ
 - 3. God gives a vision to both Cornelius and Peter that brings them together for Peter to recognize that God's love was for all men not just the Jews
 - 4. When Peter was preaching to them he said...
 - ii. *You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ([Acts 10:37-38](#))*
 - iii. It is that same Holy Spirit that is given to you and to me, to all those who believe so that we may walk in victory throughout our lives

What is that power for?

- a. To resist the temptations of the world
- b. To stand in the face of life's struggles
- c. To resist satan's lies about who we are and how our past still defines us
- d. To praise God even in the midst of the storms

Jesus continued to bless the people around Him in those final 5 ½ weeks

And every one of those truths are yours today – His presence, His peace, His provision, His power