

Mar 22, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The secret of peace is to give every anxious care to God

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Stayed upon Jehovah, Hearts are fully blest— Finding, as He promised, Perfect peace and rest. —Havergal

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God
(Phil 4:6 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Sept 8, 2009)

Series: THE SPIRIT COMES

UNIT: The Pledge of God's Presence

NEXT WEEK

**Coming in the Name
Of the Lord**
(Mark 11:1-11)

The Spirit of Peace John 20:19-23

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines how we should seek and depend on **The Spirit of Peace**. The **study's aim** is to teach that Jesus' resurrected appearances culminated in instructions for serving Him. The **study's application** is see how Jesus' word encourage us to witness boldly for Him.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Jesus had told His disciples beforehand of His approaching death and resurrection (cf. Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23); yet His words had not penetrated their understanding. Ten of Jesus' disciples were gathered in fear behind closed doors on the evening of His resurrection when the risen Lord suddenly appeared to them. He calmed their fears and showed them the scars in His hands and side (John 20:19-20). He focused on two things: the future mission of the disciples and the divine power that would enable them to carry out that mission (John 20:21-23). Jesus had taught His disciples about the future work of the Spirit in their lives during His Upper Room Discourse (chaps. 14-16). In mentioning the Spirit now, He was letting the disciples know that His time with them was soon coming to an end. His resurrection did not mean He would continue with them indefinitely. Jesus' breathing on them perhaps recalls the breath of God in giving life to the first man (Gen. 2:7) and suggests the new life given by the Spirit. As He breathed, however, He said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Whatever Jesus meant by these words, this event does not mark the beginning of the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit. That event would come some seven weeks later on the Day of Pentecost. When Jesus ascended into heaven ten days prior to Pentecost, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them (Acts 1:4-8). When that day came, the Spirit came upon all the believers, indwelt them, and empowered them for ministry. And from that day forward, the Spirit has come to indwell every believer at the moment of salvation (I Cor. 12:13; cf. Rom. 8:9). What is described in our text is probably a temporary empowering of the Spirit to sustain the disciples in the immediate future in carrying out their mission. Such empowerment would be much like the Spirit's work in the Old Testament era and would be consistent with the limited nature of such a work. Here the bestowal of the Spirit was limited to the circle of Jesus' closest disciples. The Spirit's coming on Pentecost was for all of Jesus' followers. What is important for us to remember is that our Lord has not assigned us to be witnesses and then left us powerless. He has given us not only the Great Commission but also His Spirit. We have everything we need to do everything He asks.

(Adapted from "seeing-and-believing" by Bob Deffinbaugh)

In some miraculous way, Jesus enters the room, even though the door is locked. We do not know what the disciples saw, but John certainly leaves us with the impression that our Lord's entrance was unusual—one more proof of His resurrection. Our Lord twice repeated the words, "Peace be with you" (20:19, 21). This certainly reminds us of what Jesus had said earlier to these men (John 14:24-29).

It would appear that this was our Lord's first appearance to the disciples after His resurrection. If this is so, it may be the same appearance that Luke describes, providing us with additional details (Luke 24:30-43). Jesus would have appeared to Mary and the other women by now, and they have already announced to the disciples that Jesus was alive. But the disciples refused to believe. Then, the two men who talked with Jesus on the road to Emmaus arrived to tell the disciples of their encounter with the risen Lord. Once again, the disciples refused to believe (Mark 16:12-14). John spares us from yet another account of the unbelief of the disciples, and of Jesus rebuking them for their unbelief. While their unbelief deserved rebuke, John moves on to tell us how Jesus convinced His disciples of His resurrection. He shows them His nail-scarred hands and His spear-pierced side. There was no mistaking the fact that His wounds, now healed, were incurred at His crucifixion. It was Jesus, and there was no denying it, incredible as that may be. The disciples had a job to do, and they were being left behind so that they could accomplish it. This task is summed up in the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

JESUS' PEACE (JOHN 20:19)

Peace in the face of fear (19)

Peace from fear unlike anything in this world (John 14:27)
Peace from fear of rejection by the world (Gal 6:12-16)
Peace from the fear of trials and tribulations (John 16:33)
Peace from fear that comes from the Lord of all (Acts 10:36)
Peace from fear because we have been freed from slavery of fear (Rom 8:15)
Peace from fear because God is our helper (Heb 13:6)
Peace from fear because God is our refuge and strength (Ps 46:1-3)

Peace in the inner being (19)

Peace in the inner being through righteousness (Isa 32:17)
Peace in the inner being through the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
Peace in the inner being through the guarding of our minds (Phil 4:7)
Peace in the inner being through reconciliation (Eph 2:14-18)
Peace in the inner being through faith (Rom 5:1)
Peace in the inner being through having a mind controlled by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:6)
Peace in the inner being through trust in God (Rom 15:13)
Peace in the inner being from the God of peace (1 Cor 14:33)
Peace in the inner being through unity of the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:3)

THE DISCIPLES' JOY (JOHN 20:20-21)

Joy being in the presence of Jesus (20)

Joy being in the presence of Jesus because of His power (1 Cor 5:4)
Joy being in the presence of Jesus because of His unfailing love (Ps 119:76)
Joy being in the presence of Jesus because He is the God of comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4)
Joy being in the presence of Jesus because of His compassion (Isa 49:13)

Joy in being used by Jesus (21)

Joy in being used because of giving ourselves to God (2 Cor 8:5)
Joy in being used because of submitting to God (2 Chron 30:8)
Joy in being used by being an instrument of righteousness (Rom 6:13)
Joy in being used because of living for the Lord (Rom 14:8)
Joy in being used because of honoring God with our body (1 Cor 6:19-20)

THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVED (JOHN 20:22-23)

Received from God (22)

Received from God through repentance (Acts 2:37-38)
Received from God because Jesus promised not to leave His people as orphans (John 14:18)
Received from God because Jesus sent Him (John 16:6-7)
Received from God to indwell God's people (Rom 8:9-11)
Received from God because God's people are His temple (1 Cor 3:16)
Received from God to help God's people be obedient (2 Tim 1:13-14)

Received to provide authority (23)

Authority to present God's Word to others (Col 1:25)
Authority through the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20)
Authority to do the work of God (Acts 13:1-4)
Authority so that man could have food and work (Gen 9:2-3)
Authority lower than angels (Heb 2:7)