

June 2, 2019

Jesus' Care for His Disciples

Matthew 28:8-20

Why the 40 Days Before the Ascension?

- In Acts 1:3, Luke tells us that Christ accomplished two essential things during his 40 days with the disciples.
 - He proved that He was alive
 - He spoke to them about the Kingdom of God
- Christ's resurrection body was a real physical body but a body that was made fit for the New Creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

Jesus Spoke to Them About the Kingdom of God

Jesus First Sought to Care for His Disciples

- The disciples' hope died when Jesus died (Luke 24:21).

John 20:19 Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

- With these words, Jesus was announcing that their greatest need had been met with his return: their greatest need was *peace with God*.

- With this statement, Jesus is the High Priest Who fulfills the Aaronic blessing that conferred God's peace upon the people because His sacrifice for their sin had been accepted by God:

Num 6:24 The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 the Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26 the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you [His] peace.

- Now the disciples would be able to experience peace with God (Rom. 5:1) because Jesus is the High Priest whose sacrifice has been accepted by God.

Is. 40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...

- This warfare is the furious storm of sin that continually and unrelentingly sweeps over men's souls. Jesus speaks calm to the storm and quells the winds and the waves of sin.
- Whose peace? Receiving Jesus' blessing means that the disciples are given the peace that belongs uniquely to God Who is called the God of peace (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20) in order to experience the peace of God (Phil.4:7).

John 14:27 ...My peace I give to you...

- This is the peace that is given to every believer when God's own love that is implanted into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom.5:5).
- This particular peace is called the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22) because it is not self-generated, but Spirit implanted and Spirit cultivated.
- This peace is given to us by the Spirit (John 14:27) through the preaching of the Gospel which we received trusting faith.
- Then this grace granted peace is cultivated in us by the same Spirit as we by our work of faith (1 Thess. 1:3) yield to and cooperate with the work of the Spirit (2 Thess. 2:13).
- To the extent that we, by the Spirit, exercise obedient faith personally and corporately, we will be guarded by the peace of God in every circumstance.

***Phil 4:7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*