

4. 5-22-22

Sermon- Getting Ready To Go'

Scripture- John 14:23-29, CTW PS 67

Hymns- 339, 343, 417

Theme- In today's gospel Jesus is preparing the disciples for the day he will no longer be with them. Jesus is not only preparing them for His journey, his ascent into heaven, but also their journey out into the world as they will proclaim the coming of God's kingdom through Jesus.

I. Our text for this Sunday alludes to the great event which takes place this coming Thursday, May 26th, the Ascension of our Lord.

"There is an old legend which Says when Jesus had ascended into heaven, the angel Gabriel asked him, "Lord what plans have you made for carrying on your ministry in the world? How will people learn of what you have done for them?"

Jesus responded, "I left that to Peter, James and John, Martha and Mary. They are to tell their friends and their friends will tell other friends until the whole world has heard the good news."

Gabriel then asked, "What if Peter is so busy with his nets and Martha so full of her housework and the friends so preoccupied that they all forget to tell their friends? Don't you think you should make some other plans?"

Jesus answered, "I have made no other plan. I am counting on My Children to spread my name and my love."

A. How did Jesus prepare his disciples for his journey?

There are a few verses in our gospel text that- shed some light on that preparation. We begin with the verse which says: "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Jesus is telling the disciples that God will send the Spirit which will bring to their remembrance all that He had taught them.

Part of their preparation for his ascent into heaven and their journey out into the world, is to find strength, find expression, find wisdom through the words of Christ, through His means of grace, through baptism and communion.

It is through the word, the remembrance of all that Christ had taught them that they will be empowered for their mission.

Through that word they would find also the command to love one another, to uphold one another in faith, and through those relationships each would find strength, each would be able to fulfill Christ's plan.

Not only would they have each other, but at the same time, the Holy Spirit would come and blending with their spirits, the Holy Spirit would empower them in their task and in their service.

Their task was, to spread the message of the risen Christ and this was to be done in words and in deeds.

B. The same kind of preparation is available for us.

Through the word, through the sacraments , through our worship together, through our sharing the faith together, we are empowered by God's Holy Spirit given us in Baptism to fulfill His mission.

You and I are the Peters the James and the Johns, the Marys and the Marthas, we are the ones Jesus is counting on this day to tell the unchurched, the lonely, the outcast, the ill, the disabled about the Christ who wants to be with them and redeem them.

Think of this example from everyday life as told by pastor Rick Warren: A mother was busy cleaning the house one morning, when the phone rang. She answered and was surprised when the person at the other end asked: "Is this St. Paul's Evangelical Church?." "No" said the busy mother, "I think you have the wrong number."

"Well, said the lady on the other end, "I was calling just to talk to someone a minute.

No thought the busy mother, I don't have time for this.

The lady continued saying: "I live alone and am confined to a wheelchair. My children live in another state, and sometimes I get

so lonely I just can't stand it. I'm not able to get to church. Could you just talk to me a little while? "

The busy mother felt a sudden warm feeling inside, an embarrassed feeling.

There was a long moment of silence as she looked quickly at her work and thought it wasn't **that** dirty, nor **that** messy so returning to the phone she said, "**I am glad you got the wrong number.** I would very much like to become acquainted with you. Please give me your name and address and I will be there within the hour with the makings for lunch and then we can get to know each other."

The woman was filled with joy as she excitedly gave the busy mother her name and address and, sat anxiously waiting for her new visitor."

Does she remind you of Mary or her sister Martha? **Does she remind you of you?**

II. We Must Always Keep In Mind That We Are Promised this! We are promised the Spirit who will' bring to our remembrance God's means of grace his word and the sacraments.

A. Along with that Jesus promises his peace as it says in our text: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

Jesus is preparing the disciples for their journey as He extends His peace upon them. A peace which says that even in the midst of troubles, even in the brokenness of life, even in the turmoil of this chaotic, world even in the sorrow of death, even in the pain of broken relationships, even in the normal process of growing older, in all of this Christians are to have a sense of peace.

A peace which says everything may not be made perfect in our ministry here on earth, **but a certain calm** which comes and says there is a **comfort**, a sense of **courage**, a **serenity** which allows Christ to be in control.

Maybe the following will help explain what I mean by God's peace: In some hospitals they are using a new method to calm

the newborns as they lie in their beds. It seems that if one baby cries, all of them begin to cry. So the hospital installed a tape recorder and speakers in the nursery and began to play a recording of a mother's heart beat as it would sound to the baby. After listening to these sounds for a few moments, the crying stops and the babies seem happy as a feeling of security is spread over that nursery.

In the same way, Christ's peace is spread over our lives and even though we still have problems, even though we still live in brokenness, there is a security over our lives which says no matter what, Jesus is with me and somehow with him by my side, this too shall pass.

B. The last part of today's passage speaks about the assurance of a heavenly home, a place with Jesus as he prepares our rooms.

Jesus says "You heard me say to you, 'I go away and I will come to you. 'if you loved me you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

Jesus is reminding the disciples again of the promise, the assurance that when their pilgrimage on this earth is ended, they will live with Him for eternity.

Jesus says we rejoice because of this hope. Peter says we are always to be ready to give the reason for the hope that we have and that hope is Jesus Christ.

Our lives because of Christ are to be ones of peaceful strength and resolve. They are filled with Christ's resurrecting power. There is the taste of heaven now and a full taste of heaven when death comes.

B. Our lives are to be filled with God's word, his means of grace, his peace, and the power to love Him and our neighbor. That is a full life and when that kind of life is ended, then the rejoicing can begin because we have the assurance of the Holy Spirit that we will be living eternally with the rooms prepared for us by Jesus.

As John saw in his vision, our rest, our rooms will be prepared by Christ and they will be in Christ. He will be the light, the power of that heavenly home .

Surely in this we are not suggesting that sorrow has no place in the death of a loved one because it does. But at the end of sorrows, at the end of our tears, at the end of the pain of separation, there must be something. And that something for us in Christ is the resurrection.

Life is more than sound and fury signifying nothing. Life is filled with Christ and then life ends in Christ and in hope of the eternity.

A young Husband and his Wife stood in terror as the doctor told them their 13-month old baby had died unexpectedly.

The parents hugged, embraced, cried on each other's shoulder. They returned home, cried more as each friend and relative came to offer support .

Finally it came time to prepare the funeral service. The parents told the presiding pastor, "We want this service to be a celebration of the fact our baby is with Jesus Christ.

The hymns were many familiar Easter hymns. The scriptures included the reality of death as they showed the power of Christ to overcome death.

The pastor began his sermon reliving the circumstances of the child's death, the pain, the heartbreak. Then He spoke of the promise that God's peace would be present in all circumstances, and ended with Christ's promise of a heavenly home.

The congregation ended the service with the hymn: "Now I Belong To Jesus," and as the casket was carried from the church to the adjacent cemetery, the organ played with as much sound and triumphant as it could muster, the triumphant melody of the Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah.

And the Pastor ended with the words of Christ: "My Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Those are the words I leave with you. Amen? Let Us Pray...