

## SERMON NOTES - The Gift and The Promise

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

**INTRO AND BACKGROUND** - Jesus appeared 11 times in 40 days after His resurrection where He was training His followers to relate to Him in a different way - faith rather than sight. Other than Faith, there are 2 very large overarching themes in this period: The Great Commission, and The Holy Spirit.

Today we are looking mainly at the 3 phases of the disciples' relationship with the Holy Spirit:

- WITH them
- IN them
- UPON them

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### 1. The Holy Spirit WITH them (us) before He was crucified and rose again

Jhn 7:37-39 NASB - "37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He said in reference to the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."

John 14:16-18 NKJV — "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

### 2. The Holy Spirit IN them (us) on the first day He rose again

John 20:19-22 NKJV — 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."

Luk 24:49 NKJV - "49 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.""

Romans 8:9 NKJV — But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

### 3. The Holy Spirit UPON them (us) 50 days later at Pentecost

Acts 1:4-8 NKJV — And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 NKJV — When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

### 4. What should we do in response?

There are some very important points to note regarding the infilling of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 2:38-39 NKJV — Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. "For the **promise** is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

- It's a GIFT - It's already poured out. Just receive it. It cannot be earned.
- It's a PROMISE that is received by FAITH, not by works or feelings.

Luke 11:11-13 NKJV — “If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? “Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Matthew 14:28-29 NKJV — And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.

Faith is the opposite of sight / feelings:

Jhn 11:40 NKJV - "40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (& Mar 16:17)

## AN OVERVIEW OF JESUS' 11 POST RESURRECTION APPEARANCES

### DAY 1

#### 1. Mary Magdalene on her own

John 20:14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, “**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

**16** Jesus said to her, “**Mary!**”

She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).

**17** 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.’**”

**18** Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

#### 2. The Ladies in the garden

Mat 28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “**Rejoice!**” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshipped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, “**Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.**”

#### 3. Peter on his own

1 Corinthians 15:5; Lk 24:34

#### 4. The 2 on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13 Now behold, two of them were travelling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. **14** And they talked together of all these things which had happened. **15** So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. **16** But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

**17** And He said to them, “**What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?**”

**18** Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”

**19** And He said to them, “**What things?**”

So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

Luke 24:24 And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

**25** Then He said to them, “**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?**” **27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

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### 5. The 11 without Thomas but with many others (Lk 24:33)

**Luke 24:33** So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven **and those who were with them gathered together**, **34** saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" **35** And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

**36** Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." **37** But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. **38** And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

**40** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. **41** But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, "Have **you any food here?**" **42** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. **43** And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

**44** Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." **45** And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

**46** Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, **47** and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** And you are witnesses of these things. **49** Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**John 20:19** 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." **20** When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

**21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." **22** And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained." **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

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### DAY 8

#### 6. The 11 with Thomas 8 days later

**John 20:24** Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

**26** And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" **27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

**28** And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**Mark 16:14** Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. **15** And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

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### SEVERAL DAYS LATER

#### 7. The 7 disciples fishing in Galilee (3rd time disciples had seen Him)

**John 21:4** But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you **any food?**" They answered Him, "No."

**6** And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find *some*." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on *his* outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." 11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish. 14 This is now **the third time Jesus showed Himself** to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. 15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." 16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. 18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." 20 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" 21 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" 22 Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." 23 Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

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## SEVERAL DAYS LATER

### 8. The crowd on the mountain in Galilee

**Matthew 28:16** "Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

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## SEVERAL DAYS LATER?

### 9. James His brother - **1 Corinthians 15:7**

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## SEVERAL DAYS LATER?

### 10. All the apostles - **1 Corinthians 15:7**

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## DAY 40

### 11. The followers as He was ascending on Mt Olives

**Acts 1:4** And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.