

**Message**

**Sunday April 14, 2024**

**THEME: "JESUS MAKES US RIGHTEOUS TO BELIEVE**

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A caretaker takes 10 troubled patients on a flight, and they were making a lot of noise. Some were getting up from their seats and the caretaker tried his best and was doing everything he could to keep them quiet.

Now after a while the caretaker wanted to go to the toilet and so he kept looking for someone among the troubled patients to care for the others. He found one who looked a bit calmer and more composed who can take care of the other patients while he went to the toilet.

He comes back and finds there is pin drop silence. He couldn't believe it. Peter, "How did you manage to keep all of them, quiet and well behaved."

"That was easy," said Peter. They were making a lot of noise, so I told them please go for a walk and come back. I just let them out. Don't worry, they will be back soon.

Goodness me! For a walk! That was a costly walk, I guess.

Dear Friends! We as humans always lack patience and we get terrified not knowing what to do when things go pear shaped.

We always want to find an easy way out when it comes to dealing with people.

How difficult is it for you to put up with people?

Does God find it difficult to put up with us?

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Let's take this time to see "How Jesus deals with us and how His presence transforms us to do His WILL?"

Dear Friends! We live in a world that is often so judgmental. It comes so naturally for us to judge others. It's not easy to be non-judgmental. Jesus was never judgmental, but He was and is always accepting and forgiving.

The first thing to note in the Gospel reading from Luke 24 is to see what Jesus does when he meets with His Disciples! "He Shares God's Peace".

### **1. JESUS GIVES PEACE TO BELIEVE**

Dear Friends! We cannot focus on anything in life until we have peace within our hearts and minds. Jesus knew that the disciples needed God's peace.

Please note that something special happens in between Jesus sharing God's peace and the disciples being filled with JOY. So, the moment the Disciples receive God's peace **they were in a moment of "Transition" from being doubted to believing.**

Let's see how the disciples react after receiving God's peace.

In Luke 24:36-49 When Jesus met the Disciples after He **"Rose from the dead" the disciples were terrified, troubled, in doubt and in disbelief.** This is our Human nature. We are people who doubt others; we are often terrified and troubled by the things that happen to us and around us. **But when someone doubts us, we don't take it well either. We get angry or at times we even cut off the relationship.**

How do you react when your employee reacts with fear and doubts your word or your abilities?

How have you reacted when your child or someone very close has broken your heart by doubting you or disbelieving you?

I am sure most of us might have been broken down and shattered. But the good news is Jesus was never shattered, he stood so strong by the power of God.

Dear Friends! Jesus didn't condemn the disciples when they doubted, nor did he say you are unfit to be my disciple. **Jesus accepted the disciples' human nature. Jesus knew that his disciples will be terrified and in disbelief. Jesus shares God's Peace.** We realize by now that God's peace enables us to calm our hearts and minds so that we may be able to see, hear and know the Truth.

**Look at how Jesus responds to the disciples who were being troubled, terrified, and vulnerable.**

"The second thing that Jesus does is "He shows them his hands and feet and makes them feel his bones" so that they know he is not a Spirit but is physically present. **Jesus allows us to touch him and feel him, HE IS AN EXPERIENTIAL God and HE reveals himself so that we may be witnesses of the Gospel.**

## 2. JESUS OFFERS HIS BODY AND BLOOD TO MAKE US RIGHTEOUS

Jesus clears our doubts by offering his body so that we may KNOW He is not a Ghost or a Spirit.

**Dear friends! Jesus knows our human nature. He knows we often struggle with fear, doubt, and disbelief. Jesus accepts us for who we are.**

In LUKE 24:40 "And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering!"

Dear Friends! How can someone be in joy and disbelief?

**Human joy is often temporary and can have mixed feelings and emotions erupting. But Jesus does something special; that they may have the real Joy from God.**

The disciples touch Jesus and they receive JOY. The good news is JOY is a fruit of the Spirit, but they are still filled with disbelief and wonder. **In our lives there are so many things we can be thankful for, but we often choose to get hurt, we choose to grumble, or we depend on our own understanding by googling to say that we know everything.**

Something special happens here. **Jesus said I abide in you and you in me so that your Joy may complete in me.** JESUS GIVES US HIS PEACE AND JOY THROUGH HIS WORD AND SACRAMENTS, but we still lose our focus and follow our disbeliefs and doubtful thoughts. Jesus yet again does something very interesting. **He asks if they have a meal to share.**

**The third thing Jesus does is “He eats and has fellowship, and he opens the scriptures” so that they may be filled with the “DIVINE NATURE OF GOD”**

### **3. JESUS HAS FELLOWSHIP TO MAKE US WITNESSES**

Dear Friends! Great things happen when a meal is shared. **An intimate fellowship is formed when a meal is shared. The disciples offered Jesus a piece of fish.** It allowed Jesus to break the ice and then we hear in verse 45 Jesus told them that all these things happened to fulfil the scriptures.

**Now at this point Jesus opens the scripture so that they may be filled with Peace and complete JOY through God’s word and sacraments.** Luke 24:45 “Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>**You are witnesses of these things.** <sup>49</sup>**And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so, stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”**

Dear Friends! We have received God’s Peace and Joy and now when the Scriptures were opened, the disciples were able to repent and receive forgiveness of sins. **The Gospel and Grace were proclaimed to the disciples and their JOY was complete.**

This is the message we are called to proclaim, **“The gift of repentance and forgiveness of sins.”** This is the hope we have received on Easter Sunday. This is the Peace and Joy we received when Jesus was resurrected.

**The good news is Jesus opens the scriptures” so that we may be filled with the “DIVINE NATURE OF GOD” We have the divine nature in us to lift us up from the fallen human nature. We are now called to be witnesses of the Gospel.**

Are you willing to see that you are now a witness?

What are you doing as a witness?

Are we just complacent with it or is the Holy Spirit driving you to do something?

As witnessed John reminds us, We are God’s children. **The Holy Spirit is motivating us to go out and be witnesses to our fellow members and to the world outside.**

**Jesus is sending each one of us with the blessing of the Holy Spirit to guide us, protect us and give us a new life in Him. Amen.**