

May 8 Adult Spiritual Growth Class Synopsis

Post-Resurrection to Pentecost Study

What does it mean to you when Jesus says, “Because I live, you also will live”? (John 14:19)

In the Unbreakable Promises-Unshakable Hope study, Max Lucado speaks of Jesus’ resurrection tour. He shares that People of the Promise hold onto the Unshakable Hope that Jesus Christ died a physical death, vacated an actual grave, and ascended into heaven where He at this moment reigns at head of the Church. His resurrection changed everything – He changed the world. New Testament Scripture confirms His resurrection; Old Testament Scripture gives prophecy of God’s plan of salvation in the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

New Testament Scripture is filled with the many personal encounters of Jesus following His Resurrection, all of which are counter to the chief priests’ attempted falsehood of the Resurrection and the disappearance of Jesus’ body. (*Matthew 27:62-66, Matthew 28: 2-4, 11-15*)

At the tomb, an angel of the Lord tells Mary Magdalene, Salome and Mary the mother of James, *“He has risen! He is not here.” (Mark 16:9-11)* That morning Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene as she weeps in not finding Jesus’s body outside the tomb: *“Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for? “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (John 20:15-16)* On the same day, He appears to the two men traveling on the road to Emmaus (*Luke 24:13-35*). *‘When Jesus was at the table with them, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him.’* That evening after the two men had returned to Jerusalem to excitedly tell Jesus’ disciples, Jesus appears to the disciples (without Thomas) in the Upper Room (*Luke 24:36-43*). *“Peace be with you.”* A week later, Jesus comes back to the Upper Room to show the doubting Thomas His wounds (*John 20:26-29*). *“Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”* Jesus appears to seven of His disciples on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (*John 21:1-25*). *“Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some. When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Afterwards, Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?”* Later, on a mountain in Galilee, Jesus gives His great commission (*Matthew 28:16-20*): *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

While each resurrection encounter provided evidence of an additional appearance of Jesus and a connection regarding the many eyewitnesses of the resurrected Jesus, there is significance and power in that He was ministering to the needs of each He encountered. The story of His encounter with the disciples on the Emmaus Road is often seen as a model of the personal journey that Jesus makes with us today, as He opens our eyes, points us to the Word, and reveals Himself along life’s walk as the resurrected Savior and Lord. In the story, Jesus comes alongside and walks with the two disciples in their despair, uncertainty and lost hope in the One who was to redeem Israel, following the anguishing events of the crucifixion and the unexpected resurrection reports in Jerusalem. *“Foolish”* and *“slow”* in their belief, Jesus teaches them the truth as revealed in the scriptures. Jesus helps their unbelief by pointing out the truth has already been revealed to them. All that has happened with Jesus has already been predicted and written down by Moses and the prophets and is now being fulfilled. Although things look hopeless and in doubt, they have to look no further than Scripture to understand what happened

and what will happen: First the Christ must suffer, then He is glorified. It is all part of God's plan. After the truth is revealed to them, their eyes are opened and they are then able to recognize their Lord as they later break bread in their home. Jesus leaves with the two asking each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Out of their great joy and restored hope, they immediately returned to Jerusalem to tell the disciples and others of the Good News.

While the story does not give the specific Scripture that Jesus interprets for them concerning Himself, we know He opened to them the Scriptures with a view toward showing them how all the Old Testament pointed to Him as its fulfillment. Perhaps Jesus began with Genesis 3:15, where God cursed the serpent saying, *"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. And He will strike your head and you will strike His heel."* From there He may have pointed them to Deuteronomy 18:15, in which Moses says, *"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to Him"*. Jesus may have taught Isaiah 7:14 where God says, *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son and name Him Immanuel."* He could have taken them to Isaiah 53:3: *"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering who knew what sickness was. He was like one people turned away from; He was despised, and we did not value Him."* Perhaps Jesus showed them what Isaiah 53:7 says: *"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, and like a sheep silent before His shearers, He did not open His mouth."* Jesus may have reminded them of the prophet Zechariah who spoke of Jesus as the Branch... *"Behold I will bring my servant the Branch"* (Zechariah 3:8)... *"Here is the man whose name is the Branch and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord."* Maybe Jesus quoted to them Zechariah 12:10: *"Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at Me whom they pierced. They will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for Him as one weeps for a firstborn."* He may have spoken of Isaiah 40:3, which is quoted in Matthew 3:3 – *"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him"*. Jesus may have concluded His teaching with Isaiah 42:1-7, which provides the full Messianic prophecy and the New Covenant in Christ Jesus... *"I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles."*

We know that Jesus walked them through the entirety of the revelation to show how it gave witness to who He was, why He had come, and why it was necessary. Jesus wanted them to see that if they would only believe what the Scriptures say about Him, they would understand why He came and why He had to suffer. They would have known who He was.

We too are reminded that Scripture points to Jesus as God's answer and provision for our needs, questions, and problems. Through His precious Word, God in Christ Jesus walks with us and allows us to see Him and to know Him - our Redeemer, Sustainer, Deliverer, Refuge, Hope and Strength, leading us to become partakers in His great and perfect plan of redemption, sanctification and making all things new.

Song to reflect and pray on:

[\(585\) Whisper \(Official Lyric Video\) // A Table Full Of Strangers // Jason Upton - YouTube](#)

Looking ahead – Sunday May 15

Post-Resurrection to Pentecost Scripture Study