

Peace in HIS Presence!



“It is the Lord.”

John 21: 7

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Chapter 1

Peace in the Morning Mist

After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus said these three words to His Disciples:

“Come and Dine” John 21:12.

The disciples were together on the seashore and understood not the recent happenings; nor did they understand the mysterious comings and goings of the Lord Jesus, after the resurrection.

I can imagine that, as they sat pensively reflecting beside the sea, that the confused disciples, in gloomy silence, might have been reflecting upon the happenings of the past few

days and the promises Jesus had made. They had seen the God Man working in power; they had witnessed Him raise dead people and they had seen Him feed thousands with but a few loaves and fishes!

They remembered the words of the Lord Jesus bringing biblical wisdom, and the comfort He gave them from His lips. They must have missed the sense of security they always felt when in His Presence.

But now, following recent happenings, mingled with reflections of biblical promises that the Lord Jesus had made, they pondered with bewilderment.

The Lord Jesus had repeatedly spoken of the necessity of His Cross which was always set before Him in a timely manner. It was necessary that, by His shed, spotless Blood, He paid the soul winning price to save repentant sinners!

Shameful memories of their sluggish prayers, and their scattering as sheep without a shepherd, must have caused their heads to hang heavy with shame. At least one of the disciples had witnessed the crazy crowd of blood-thirsty men, and viewed the body of their Lord, hanging nude between two thieves, as a tortuous spectacle!

Possibly, with sand trickling through their fingers, the fishermen-disciples sat in reflective silence with a mixture of wonderment and confusion.

The full mystery of their Savior's sacrificial, spotless shed Blood now ended the necessity for the repeated animal blood-sacrifices. They would have more readily understood why the Temple Veil, now rent from top to bottom, had opened access to a holy God. All made possible by the spotless, shed Blood, of the Lamb of God!

Having witnessed the Lord's burial and looked upon His resurrected body with reverential filial worship, the

disciples recognized His glorious victory since He declared from the cross: *“It is finished!”*

Full of strange **mystery and misery**, Peter suddenly announced his intent: *“I go a fishing.”* His declaration readily found an affirmative response for action from the others! Soon, the disciples returned to their familiar roles of ‘boats and nets.’ Pushing away from the shore, as in their old familiar habit, nets were dropped and the disciples waited for their first catch!

After hours of fishing and the darkness passing, the disciples must have been increasingly depressed. Dawn was

breaking, but their nets were empty of their ‘man planned’ catch! Added to their chagrin, they realized that they also had drifted near to the shore, the most unlikely place to find any fish!

Enshrouded in the morning mist, they saw a figure huddled over a lighted fire. Gazing through the early morning light, they heard an unrecognized voice which challenged them by His question: “*Children, have ye any meat?*”

Like salt rubbed into a sore wound, the disciples knew that their night of fishing had been without a catch, and that their hoped-for handling of their

problems had turned out to be a failure!

“We have been fishing all night and have caught nothing” John 21:1-12.

Have you ever been in that same position? Having followed your man-made schemes of seeking a lifestyle of success and security, have you ignored God's unique purpose for your life?

Head-knowledge of the miraculous birth of the Lord Jesus; His sinless Life; His innocent death by crucifixion and His glorious bodily resurrection, still require the application of my independent actions. Is your vision limited to your spiritual security in a routine church attendance, without any

radical heart change from imbibing the Word of God?

Purchased by the Lord Jesus to be His vessel, and totally available to His indwelling Spirit will allow His fruit to be reproduced through me, a born-again believer:

“Not with eye-service, as men pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free” Ephesians 6:6-8.

Only after the disciples recognized and confessed their failure of resorting to ‘their own plans,’ did they obey what He had originally told them: *“Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men”*

Matthew 4:19.

We too are commanded to: *“Reckon ... yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* Romans 6:11.

As a believer, whatever your story of past failures, it is not too late for you to confess your proud, independent spirit with their ‘broken plans,’ and to trust the Lord to work through you, at whatever the cost, all for His glory!

As the Lord spiritually trains you for both now and all eternity, others may misunderstand your total obedience and intimate relationship with Him! The ‘package’ of our testing, might appear different at times, but the underlying content is the same until we humbly learn His lessons:

*“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** Therefore, be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is ...*

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name

*of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God ... as the Church is subject unto Christ ... **That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***

*“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. As the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart;** with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men”* Ephesians 5:15-16, 20-21, 26, 32. 2:6-7.

Chapter 2

Peace in His Presence

Our Lord Jesus, early in the morning on the seashore, humbled Himself to act as the ‘Waiter’ for His disciples. He prepared the fire; took the fish and cooked them, ready to feed His weary disciples after their failed night of handling things in their own way!

Previously, the Lord Jesus had taken the place of a ‘Servant’ and had washed the feet of the disciples at the ‘Last Supper.’ Knowing the hearts of each of His chosen disciples, He again humbled Himself to wait on His bewildered disciples.

As the morning twilight arose, and the shape became more distinctive, John was the first to recognize the familiar form of his beloved Lord.

True to his temperament, the piercing truth of the Lord's miraculous Birth; His spotless Life; His horrifying death, and His prophesied burial and glorious resurrection became clearer to John for he was the first to recognize His beloved voice and joyfully exclaimed:

“It is the Lord!”

On the other hand, dynamic Peter, needed only the suggestion that the Master was near, for him to

immediately plunge straight into the sea!

The Presence of their resurrected Lord Jesus on, **the shore of mystery and misery** had become **the shore of majesty and meaning!** The other dutiful disciples, after gathering the unexpected harvest of the sea, disembarked at the invitation of their risen Lord to: *“Come and dine!”*

Whether by His, **‘Peace in the morning mist; ‘Peace of His Presence’** or, **‘Peace in His Communion,’** our Lord Jesus, in His resurrected splendor from Heaven, invites us, His redeemed child, to

fellowship with Him in His daily **renewal** through His Word!

God, “... *hath in these last days spoken unto us by **His Son**, Whom He hath appointed **heir of all things**, by whom also **He made the world**; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high** ...*

“But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved

righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.

“And Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands: They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up and they shall be changed: but

*“Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail ... Therefore, **we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at***

any time we should let them slip”

Hebrews 1:1-3, 8-12, 2:1.

The Lord personally invites His own to: “***Come and dine!***” This fellowship speaks of our **remembrance** in a two-fold way:

As Augustine expressed: There is a difference between this mentioned fishing exploit and another somewhat similar fishing exploit [Luke 5:1-11] which happened in the lifetime of our Lord. In the first incident, it is significant that the Lord ‘allowed’ the net to break and for some of the fish to escape from the nets! That is typified of the Church today: With our every endeavor, as

fishers of men, we cast forth His ‘nets of evangelism.’ Sadly, promising ‘catches’ manage to escape our nets.

However, on that great day of “His Harvest of the Evangelism of the Church,” the nets will not be broken. The recorded number of fish in this exploit was one hundred and fifty-three; and each fish landed safely. For all will be ingathered for all eternity!

This symbolically points to the final, glorious feast at the ingathering of the redeemed with the Lord. Arrayed in white raiment, we will dine for all eternity with the Lord of lords. All praise and glory to His holy Name!

“Blessed are they which are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb”

Revelation 19:9. Because the Lord Jesus rose from the dead; He eagerly awaits His Bride, the Church, to triumphantly be all-inclusive! Each believer will be a part of His complete Body, uniquely in place. Our souls will forever feast in the presence of the Lamb of God, around His awesome Holy Throne.

Completely contrasting the picture of us in this Christ-rejecting world, we are to, ***“do the will of God from the heart”*** and to ***“be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might ... putting on the whole armour of God,***

that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all to stand” Ephesians 6:6,10-13.

What is the Lord saying to you as you follow these scriptures? Are you willing to submit your life to His holy will being outworked through you, even at this very time in your life?

Chapter 3

Peace in His Communion

John Bunyan's book, "Mansoul," describes how that, 'When the city was in order, the people gathered morning by morning at the King's Palace to meet Him at the banqueting house. There, they received nourishment, before entering the activity of city life.'

Before heeding the daily cry, "Breakfast is ready," the Lord invites us to: "***Come and dine.***"

Do you anticipate Him waiting especially for you, and for you to be able to feast your eyes upon His Person through His Holy Word? With His

prepared sustenance, just for you, do you claim His promise? “***For they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength***” Isaiah 40:31.

Quietly reflecting upon His holy Word, do we understand His resurrected Presence, harmonizing the mystery of the Cross with the majesty of His Crown? Not only does the Lord Jesus **desire** our communion with Him, but He also **demand**s that we should gather, if physically possibly, with other believers at the Feast of His holy Communion! There our Lord Jesus, is the living Host, and it is our incredible **delight**, and imminent **duty**, to obey

His awesome command: “***This do in remembrance of Me***” 1 Corinthians 11:24.

As we gather at the Table of Banquet with our Host, the risen Lord Jesus, the bread and wine would be meaningless without our first seeking a cleansed heart before His holy Presence!

It is the glorious figure of our Triumphant Savior, Who by His precious shed Blood upon the cross, welcomes us to His holy Table. For there, the **mystery gives way to the meaning** as we worshipfully, “***show forth His death***” with other believers, in His Presence of united testimony to: “***remember Him.***”

To every Blood-bought believer, **“Come and dine,”** opens the glorious anticipation of our **unrelenting devotion**; our **unique destiny**, and our **ubiquitous duty** being fulfilling in our assigned mission days here on earth.

*“We ... were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us [made us alive] together with Christ, (by grace we are saved);*

*“**And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the***

ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace ye are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” Ephesians 2: 3-10.

The Church was born at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon believers. Many repented and were saved from their sin, but others

guiltily resisted. *“He was that true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.*

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” John 1: 9-13.

By His shed, spotless Blood, the Lord redeemed us to be a part of His Church—His Bride. Soon He will

meet us in the air, at the ‘Rapture,’ before the: ***“Great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened”*** Matthew 24:21-22.

After those horrific seven-year days of Tribulation, we will return with our beloved King Jesus from Heaven to earth. He shall rule as King of kings and Lord of lords for a thousand years. Our Lord will ***“drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine with you in my Father’s kingdom”*** Mathew 26:29.

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