

**Easter Trilogy – Part 4**  
**Post Resurrection Mission**  
Acts 1:4 – 8

**I. Intro**

- A. Finishing messages leading up to today – Easter Sunday
- B. 3 chapters in Psalms; 22 – the cross of Jesus; 23 – Jesus, the Good Shepherd; 24 – Jesus, our Glorious Savior
- C. Today, the most special day in Christian church – remember and celebrate Christ’s resurrection; 3 days earlier suffered most horrific death, crucified on a cross; buried in a borrowed tomb; but, He wouldn’t remain in that tomb, He walked out of it and as we’ve sung about this morning is still alive today, seated at the right hand of God the Father
- D. **Question:** What does today mean for all of us as believers in Christ for the other 364 days of every year (365 on leap years)? Why should each and everyday, post resurrection, also be days for celebrating? **Ans:** These days are a time for waiting, wondering, and working

**II. A Time for Waiting**

- A. **READ Acts 1:3 – 8**
- B. Scripture tells us that after Jesus’ resurrection he not only appeared to Mary on the morning of His resurrection, not only did He appear to the apostles (seen in these verses), but – 1 Corinthians 15:6 (ESV)  
<sup>6</sup>... he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive ...
- C. **(v. 3) presented Himself alive ... by many proofs – over a period of forty days**
  - i. **One example: Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, insisted – John 20:25 (ESV)**  
<sup>25</sup>... “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”
  - ii. **8 days later: John 20:27–28 (ESV)**  
<sup>27</sup>... he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”  
<sup>28</sup>Thomas [*responds*], “My Lord and my God!”
- D. **(v. 4) Jesus tells those present at this time to wait, they’re to stay in Jerusalem and ... wait for the promise of the Father**
- E. **Question:** What promise is Jesus talking about? **Ans:** The promise of the Holy Spirit – third person/manifestation of God Almighty ... *you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now*

- F. Through the indwelling of Holy Spirit in the life of believers in Christ by which we can be restored back into relationship with God our Creator**
- G. Not the first mention/appearance of Holy Spirit in scripture – always been working in the world and among God’s people, but this is the first of the Holy Spirit being present/residing in the life of those believing in Jesus as Son of God and Savior of the world**
- H. The presence of the Spirit of God in us does four things:**
- i. 1 – Enlightens us; John 16:13 (ESV)**  
<sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth ... ;  
**John 14:26 (ESV)**  
<sup>26</sup>But the Helper, 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.
  - ii. 2 – Energizes us: (v. 8) ... *you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...***
    - a) Difficult for disciples to witness the crucifixion, they knew the days that followed were going to be filled with persecution; through the presence of the Holy Spirit in them they would find grace, strength, energy they would need to face it all; Spirit still does the same for us**
  - iii. 3 – Encourages us: John 16:7 (ESV) Jesus says ...**  
<sup>7</sup>Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (also translated *Comforter*) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.;
  - iv. 4 – Equips us: REFER back to v. 8**
- I. Illustration: Australian, David Smallbone. Felt God leading him to promote Christian concerts in Australia where only 5% of people believed in Christ. Didn’t catch on very well, David – father of six children, ended up \$250,000 in debt, his home was repossessed. One day, a top Nashville recording artist offered him a job, so Smallbones sold all they had left and moved to U.S. Few weeks later, David was told that his job was “no longer available” – now in a different country, no money, six children and wife to support – he became deeply depressed, wouldn’t get out of bed for days. Things got so bad that all his family could do at this point was get on their knees and ask God to help them.**
- Things begin to happen – people started bringing groceries, someone gave them a minivan, and odd jobs became available for David. Biggest surprise of all – a recording contract offered to his oldest daughter, Rebecca, who was 15. She recorded her first album, using an old family name, St. James. Rebecca St. James would become one of the top Christian artists in America – Christianity today at one time naming her as one of the top 50.**

**J. Waiting on God can be hard, but God knows what He's doing, He works according to His timing**

**K. Jeremiah 29:11–13 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

<sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

<sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

**L. Post resurrection, there will be times for waiting on the Lord**

### **III. A Time for Wondering**

**A. (v. 6) After Jesus tells those present to wait in Jerusalem, and wait for the promise of the Father – Holy Spirit, they have a question; REFER v. 6**

**B. We humans are inquisitive creatures – we always want to know where, when, how, who, etc.**

**C. Illustration: Laura and getting gas – wanting details**

**D. When Jesus answered the disciples' questions we see 3 things**

i. **1 – Jesus' answer exceeded their Expectations; they were thinking and wondering about an earthly kingdom, but Jesus' ultimate plan was an eternal, heavenly kingdom; Daniel 4:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.; John 18:36 (ESV) Jesus being interrogated by Pilate

<sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

ii. **2 – He encourages the disciples to Endure; the Christian life is a marathon not a sprint; it's hard and can be dangerous; meaning behind Paul's words - 2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

iii. **3 – He supplies their Enthusiasm; Question – How can believers seem so cheerful when things are so difficult? Ans: Because He holds us and He holds the future; (v. 10) Says two men in white robes appeared to disciples after Jesus ascended back to heaven – REFER v. 11**

**E. So, post resurrection not only will we need to wait on the Lord, not only will we wonder about work God will do in us and in His church, and wonder about the day when Jesus will return, but ...**

### **IV. A Time for Working**

**A. Too many who profess to be Christian who wait and wonder without working**

**B. Four reasons, post resurrection, we all as believers must be working**

- i. **1** – Our Mandate; (**v. 8**) Jesus says, *You WILL be my witnesses*, not “you could” or “you should” – this is a very plain, simple command from our Lord; part of our church’s mission statement
- ii. **2** – Our Ministry to engage others in this post resurrection work; part of Holy Spirit’s presence within us is to cultivate in us spiritual gifts – every believer has been given a spiritual gift to use for ministry; everyone has a ministry they can be involved in; if can’t find a ministry to get involved in then start one
- iii. **3** – Our Mission to accomplish; we have responsibility to go beyond these four walls of the church and serve/reach others for Christ; if we as body of Christ refuse to do the work of Christ in this community then God will use another church body, or Salvation Army, or Concerted Services, or United Way, etc.; Revelation 3:1–3 (ESV) Jesus’ words to church in Sardis

<sup>1</sup>... “ ‘I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

<sup>2</sup>Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

<sup>3</sup>Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

- iv. **4** – Our Message to proclaim; *wages of sin is still death, the gift of God is still eternal life*; Jesus still seeks and saves [those who] are lost; **“In Christ Alone” words** – *In Christ alone, my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song*

C. If we fail in the work that the Lord has called us to, as individual believers and as the church, then our existence is all for nothing

## V. Close

- A. Post resurrection there will be times of waiting, times of wondering, and certainly time for working
- B. We’re not to just stand around looking; Jesus Christ who came to earth as an infant child, who was crucified, who rose again, who ascended into heaven, He is coming back again