

Sermon ~ Sunday, April 11, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Matthew 28: 20b "...I AM with you alway..."

John 20: 19, 20 (Please Read All)

Title: "JESUS' Presence! (3)"

JUST TO KNOW THAT **JESUS is PRESENCE**, has and is *Helping ME!!!* (Please excuse my shouting!)

[As *they* knocked on the door of *his* room, it was a Home for the Elderly... *they* heard *him* talking to someone. Frances whispered, 'he, has a visitor.' Afterward, they heard *him* say, "Come in."

*They* went into the room, but *they* did not see anyone with *him*... When *they* said *they* had heard *him* talking to somebody, the stately 93-year-old, smiled and said, "Oh, I was talking to **JESUS!** I asked **HIM**, why it is taking **HIM** so long to call *me* Home?"

**JESUS** was in that room with *him*. Although *Bodily in Heaven*, **JESUS** is present in **SPIRIT** with all of **HIS people** just as **HE Promised**— [**"...I AM with you alway..."**]

**The Presence of CHRIST** with **HIS disciples** in the text (John 20: 19, 20), reveals various emotions... **The Presence of JESUS, The CHRIST** with you and I now, ought to reveal, **WHO we believe**, and not, what we feel, what we hope for, what do we say or what do we do?

In the text (John 20: 19, 20), **JESUS disciples** were "terrified" (Luke 24: 37a); they were "frightened" (Luke 24: 37b); they thought **JESUS** to be a "spirit" (Luke 24: 37c).

A "sign," a confirmation of man's (our) depraved nature, gross carnality. Because **JESUS' disciples** were unspiritual (worldly in thought or thinking), they were alarmed, and when the alarm a little ceased, **JESUS** said to them, "Why are ye *troubled*?" "Why do you *doubt WHO I AM?*" (Luke 24: 38) And "Why do *thoughts arise* in your hearts?"

[Remember, these disciples had been *with JESUS* over 3 years; they heard **JESUS** say, Matthew 16: 21, "...we *must* go to Jerusalem...I will be killed...and be raised again the third day." They heard **JESUS** say again, Matthew 17: 23, "...they shall kill **ME**, and the third day **I** shall be raised again." And once more **JESUS** said to **HIS disciples**, Matthew 20: 17-19, "We go up to Jerusalem...and they shall condemn **ME** to death...and crucify **ME**: and the third day **I** shall rise again."]

While in their presence, **JESUS asked**, "Why do *thoughts arise* in your hearts?" Maybe, they began to think of their *ill conducts* to their **MASTER**, and their *consciences* made them tremble. We are told in Mark's account of **The Gospel** (Mark 16: 14), when **JESUS appeared** unto them behind closed doors, "**HE upbraided** them." *Oneidizo* (on-i-did'-zo) that is, viewed them as culpably guilty, deserving blame/punishment. **JESUS upbraided** them for their *unbelief* and *hardness of heart* to receive "eyewitnesses reports" that **JESUS is Alive**. Yet in gentle tones **JESUS chided**, voiced **HIS** disapproval of their unbelief and **JESUS** said, "handle **ME** and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see **ME** have."

And (Luke 24: 42, 43) **JESUS ate** broiled fish and honey with them.

Let us come to ourselves. **JESUS** is not “physically” with us, but “**SPIRITually**”, but what *if*, we would “see” **HIM** physically today? I am sure we would be filled with profound *awe*. To “see” *our* **MASTER!** *Our* **LORD** and **SAVIOR!** *Our* **MEDIATOR!** **The Blessed SON of GOD,** **WHO** washed away our *sin stains* in **HIS Own Blood!** Like John on the Isle of Patmos, we would fall at **HIS Feet** as dead! Are, would we? Church, **JESUS is Present!!!**

I suppose, many would be melted down with deep contrition, feeling remorseful, sorrowful, and penitent. Some may even say, “**LORD and MASTER**, are **YOU** come to ask an account of my *stewardship?*” I am ashamed to look **YOU** in **The FACE**, because I have done so little for **THEE**. Another may say, “I joined **The Church** some years ago, but I have neither helped in the Sunday School, or the neighborhood, or visited the sick, nor rendered any service whatsoever. But I received from **The Church**—eaten the fat and drank the sweet when **The Church** provided.

One may say, “But *if* **The LORD** was here—*if* I could “see” **HIM** physically, I would pour out my glad soul in Praise, and tell **HIM** how I *love* **HIM**. I would kiss **HIS Feet** and wash them with my tears.”

I say to you my Brother and Sister, “Do it *now!*” Though we have not **JESUS** in *flesh and blood*, **JESUS in SPIRIT is here!** And though **HIS Body be in Glory**, yet your (our) tears and thankfulness will reach **HIM** and be as acceptable to **HIM** as *if* **HE** were here **in Body**.

Someone else may say, “*if* I did “see” **The LORD**, I would leave to run and tell, my family—Father, Mother, Sister, Brother... all my friends.” I would tell everybody, **JESUS is Alive!!!**

Well, this *scene* has been and shall continue to be *until* **JESUS** comes again! What *scene*, you asked? **HYPOCRITES!** Professors of religion and who has not been “Born-Again!” Oh Judas, Judas, how would you bear to see **The Risen Glory of HIM** whom you betrayed? You, *vacillating* Pilate—*wavering* between *opinions* and *actions*. You knew the right thing to do, but you did the wrong. How will you meet **The MASTER** in whom you found no fault, yet condemned to death? Yet refused to submit too? Yet, rebelled against **HIS WORD, Will and Way?**

I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me, I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me, *with* me,  
All along my pilgrim journey, I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me!

In my trials walk *with* me, in my trials walk *with* me, walk *with* me,  
When the shades of life are falling, **LORD GOD**, I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me!

In my sorrows, walk *with* me, in my sorrows, walk *with* me, walk *with* me,  
When my heart *within* is aching, **LORD GOD**, I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me!

In my troubles, walk *with* me, in my troubles walk *with* me, walk *with* me,  
When my life becomes a burden, **LORD GOD**, I want **JESUS** to walk *with* me!