

Weekly Word April 27th, 2025

Marion Victory

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

The Apostles are on trial once again for proclaiming Jesus. Standing before the council and the high priest they are being questioned about their intentions to bring this Man's blood upon them. Peter and the other Apostles respond saying, "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him, ***God has exalted to His right hand*** to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The Psalmist points out to us GOD'S right hand in verses 15b – 16

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

The right hand of the LORD is exalted.

The right hand of the LORD does valiantly.

17 I shall not die, but live, and ***declare the works of the LORD.***

A few weeks ago, we celebrated Palm Sunday. The Triumphal entry of our LORD.

His ***first*** steps toward the cross through the gates of Jerusalem.

At the time, I wondered about the sealed gate that was once opened, and I had mentioned His second coming etc.

Here it is! In Revelation chapter 1.

Friends we live in a time of social media where we can see news happening in real-time.

A time when this event **CAN** be seen by every eye. Revelation 1:7 clearly states;

Behold, He is coming ***with*** clouds, and ***every eye will see Him.*** And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (So be it).

In the Gospel today, Jesus appears seemingly out of nowhere considering the doors were shut, before His Disciples. It is the evening of the first day of the week, the same day that He appeared to Mary. Resurrection Sunday!

The first words that He speaks are, "***Peace be with you.***" Jesus does not have to prove who He is but, He chooses to do so. He shows them His scars. They are glad! That is what the scripture says, they are glad!

I would have screamed and did some kind of happy dance, I am sure. Of course, we don't know how they reacted exactly, but John writes, they were **GLAD**. I had to look it up. Glad: experiencing pleasure, joy, or delight. So, my happy dance would fit!

Jesus speaks again, ***"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*** Then he breathed on them, and said to them, ***"Receive the Holy Spirit."***

The very breath of GOD. The same breath that was breathed into the first Adam is now breathed upon the disciples giving them the power and authority to forgive sins or retain them. That is something to chew on. That is a big responsibility! It is not the same forgiveness that GOD gives, I think it is to reassure that GOD has forgiven when asked. An absolution.

I love how after we have prayed the prayer of forgiveness at church, Reverend Howard, prays a prayer of absolution. And I see it in this very passage. That is what Jesus was giving His disciples. That is what He gives us.

Eight days later, not six, not seven. Why? Who knows for sure. But one thing I do know, eight is the number for new beginnings and reconciliation. Thomas was being reconciled. Not rebuked. Jesus knew what Thomas had spoken the week before. "Unless I see or feel." Jesus says once again, ***"Peace to you!"*** Then He offers Thomas the opportunity to touch Him. Only one week before He forbade Mary to touch Him.

Thomas, He says, ***"Reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing."*** I have a sense these were words of love and reconciliation. A new beginning for our doubting friend. Thomas cries, "My LORD and my God! Jesus says, ***"Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed (happy) are those who have not seen and yet believed."***

All of the disciples were shown the scars, the proof. Perhaps the others would have questioned had they not seen.

We have not seen, but we believe because of the testimony of the Word and the Holy Spirit who reveals to us. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Thank You, Father for sending us Your Son, Thank You, Jesus for coming, Thank You, Holy Spirit that You are still here. Amen!

