

# First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

**Scripture:** Luke 24:36-48

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you -- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

**Congregational Prayer: LORD'S PRAYER: "Our Father"**

Our Father, Which Art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever. AMEN

**Message:** "Peace and Power in the Upper Room"

Introduction:

- Gasoline is gasoline is gasoline. Or is it? As turns out, not at all. Right now, those of you who have a car sitting somewhere outside here, will probably have winter gasoline still in your fuel tanks. Winter gasoline is completely different from summer gasoline because of an additive called butane. Butane is highly flammable, and has high VOC's or

volatile organic compounds. Another way to say this, of course, is that butane is higher in the RVP, or Reid Vapour Pressure scale. With more butane added to winter gas, your car starts better when it gets very cold. But butane, because it is more volatile, will expand in the heat of summer, and is therefore more explosive. Starting today, all gasoline stations will start to serve summer gas only.

- Gasoline is not gasoline is not always gasoline. Not everything that we expect in life is as it should be.
- So today, let's take a little trip into the Upper Room and see what happened on that first Easter Sunday 2000+ years ago.

Part 1: The Last Supper

- Today our story of Easter begins four days earlier when the disciples of Jesus followed a servant with a jug of water back to a room that he was preparing, I would say, for no apparent reason. Luke 22:8-12 (NIV) says: *"Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." 9 "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. 10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, 11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room,*

*where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 12 He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."*

- We do not know the owner of the Upper Room, nor do we know how he or she would have been connected with Jesus of Nazareth, the travelling Rabbi who spoke with such great love, power, and authority. We do know this: the owner of the Upper Room sent the servants into motion to prepare a meal, and in the end they fed Jesus and His followers.
- We used to have large Christmas gatherings when we were in London. My mom and my younger sister, my other sister and her daughter, my brother and his wife and two children and partners would all gather together. Funny, we would invite them for Christmas lunch to start at around 1 PM, and without fail we would pull out the leftovers provide supper as well! Linda is a master feeding large crowds of people, and so I can only imagine the work the servants had to do to feed Jesus and His 12 disciples this meal. And it was a special meal – a religious festival that had to be served in a prescribed manner. Hats off to the servants.
- And I'm sure the servants would've been pleased when Jesus and all of His disciples finally finished the Passover supper and left the Upper Room, disappeared into the late evening. The dirty water from the

washing of feet, the dirty dishes, goblets, and the platters full of leftovers and scrapings would have kept the servants busy until well into the night.

- Now you know how word spreads. Those servants would have, no doubt, known that the Rabbi from their Upper Room had left there only to have been arrested. As they cleaned up, they surely heard the rumours of Jesus being dragged from one mock trial to another. I wonder if they paused as they heard that the crowd was crying out for Him to be crucified. I wonder if they stopped working altogether when they heard that the cup in their hand was recently held by The One who was now being hung on the cross at Golgotha.
- And as they worked cleaning up the last of the mess from that Upper Room, no doubt they heard about the disciples of Jesus running and hiding in fear, and of the Rabbi, Jesus, crying out in pain as He died in agony, His body being put into a borrowed tomb. Think of their exhaustion. Think of their grief.

## Part 2: Resurrection Sunday

- We have no record of what happened in the Upper Room from the time the disciples left with Jesus late Thursday night and when Jesus stood

before them on Easter Sunday morning as the resurrected Christ. We do know this: some time on Friday or Saturday all of the disciples (Not Judas) came back to that Upper Room. Have you ever wondered why?

- Now, first, I want you to notice that it does not say in any the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), that the resurrection encounters happened in the Upper Room. But take a look at Acts 1:13 and you will see that they have been indeed staying in the Upper Room. So why were the disciples back in the Upper Room?
- Here they feel that they can be unimpeded by the things of this world. They feel that no outside force can come in and harm them. The disciples were so comfortable in the Upper Room because this was the place that Jesus set out for them. It was a place where Jesus called them. It was holy, even sacred ground where Jesus had been and had taught them. It was safe.
- And that is the way that we should all feel when it comes to having Jesus Christ our lives. We should all know that with Christ we are safe. Now things can still happen in our lives. We will still get sick. We will still have accidents. We will even have death to contend with. And yet we can rest assured that we will be safe with Him always and forever.

- In the movie "The War Room" we are shown the powerful life of a believer in Jesus Christ. She had a special part of her house set aside for prayer. She called it her "War Room." This was a place that she set aside for talking with God: for stirred up her soul, for rest and conviction and for rebuke and to get her marching orders to go into the world for Christ.
- The Church of Jesus Christ is just such a War Room. The Church of Jesus Christ is to be a safe place of prayer and to receive the power of God, just as the disciples found in the Upper Room.
- May I encourage you: whether you come to Church every Sunday or at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas; whether you watch on TV once in a while or you are a regular viewer, go out and find a War Room to meet with the Lord. Let me encourage you to come to this Church or another Church in this area which preaches the resurrected Christ, and grow together in Christ Jesus. Come to the War Room.

### Part 3: Two Gifts from the Upper Room

- Jesus gave two gifts to the disciples in the Upper Room in Luke 24:
  1. The gift of peace (v. 36). Notice that the gift of peace overcomes doubt. Jesus left the disciples with a gift of peace, and this peace was a

restoring agent for the weary, fearful disciples. It was a gift that refilled their souls and spirits in their grief, and this gift shone through their need. Each of us had a week of joy and pain, of success and difficulty. For some, this week was one to be remembered forever. For others it was one to be forgotten. To those disciples, the events of the past week were simply too horrific, and yet there standing before them was the Risen Jesus. In the midst of their doubt and fear, Jesus brought peace. This passage teaches that both hope and promise come from trusting the Lord Jesus Christ. Peace is the result of trusting in Jesus even when all human experience argues otherwise. Therefore, when the disciples of Jesus asked whether Jesus Christ was real, or was an image, whether Jesus was there to tease them, or was the Risen Christ, whether Jesus was a Ghost, or God, the answer lead them to believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord. They knew that Jesus was alive. And they knew He was the Christ, the defeater of death, the giver of life! Jesus was more than a great prophet. Jesus was more than a worker of miracles. Jesus could do more than weave a good story. Jesus could do more than speak well. Now Jesus stood before them, restored to health, filled with God's spirit. Now they called Him Lord and He gave them peace.

- 2: The Gift of Power (v. 45): The gift of power is stronger than any doubts or fear of those who believe. From a fearful group of disciples, shattered by the events of the past week, and unable to understand why their friend had died, and what the result will be, Jesus stored them. In the midst of their powerlessness, Jesus gave them the power that they needed to carry on. In the midst of their powerlessness, Jesus gave them the ability to raise above it all in hope. In the midst of their powerlessness, Jesus stood among them and gave them peace. In the midst of their powerlessness, Jesus gave them power.
- The power that Jesus gave them was the power to not only accept the tragedy of the events of the past week, that is the tragedy of the brutal death of their friend, but gave them to the ability to go beyond acceptance. Now the disciples saw how the tragedy could strengthen their belief in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Now the disciples were empowered to take the word of Jesus Christ to everyone. Now, the stage was set.
- The power of Jesus was great enough to break through the greatest enemy of Love, fear. Jesus broke their fear, and replaced it with Power - the power of God. The power that Jesus Gave them was the power to

change the world. It was the power of Hope and expectation.

Conclusion:

- So, it's April Fools Day today, this Easter Sunday. The only one getting fooled that first Easter Sunday was Satan, and He still is today. And while it is true that gasoline is not always gasoline, it is also true that we can expect the unexpected to be great with Jesus in our life..
- What of your week? The peace and power of Jesus will restore you. His peace and power will lift your soul and countenance above all care and fear as He holds you in His mighty, nail-scarred hands. That is the power of Jesus. That is the effect of the peace He leaves. This is the power and peace He is not a ghost, but the Living God, the Risen Christ.