**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Resurrection Series**

Acts of the Holy Spirit: Acts 9:5. . .Who Are You Lord? II

The Lord is My Helper!

November 3rd, In the Year of Our Lord 2024

Pastor Matthew Diehl

(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

Sermon Audio and Texts: roundtopchurch.org / Under Member’s tab

Note: Final version of sermon is posted with possible additions.

Email questions to Pastor: rtchurch@cvctx.com

 We continue our sermon series on the impact of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Apostles and His followers could not fulfill the Great Commission, nor can we, unless Jesus imparted His Holy Spirit to them. I want to focus on these five facts:

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples many times over forty-days as the Resurrected Messiah. Starting from when Jesus greeted the women at the empty tomb to the ascension there were numerous appearances. We include Jesus coming to John on Patmos.
2. Early Sunday morning to Mary Magdalene near the sepulcher at Jerusalem

 (Mark 16:9, John 20:11-18)

1. The women returning from the sepulcher (Matthew 28:8-10)
2. Peter (Cephas) near Jerusalem later that day (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5)

 4. The two disciples going to Emmaus that day (Mark 16:12, Luke 24:13-32)

 5. Evening at Jerusalem to the apostles except Thomas (Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-25)

 6. Sunday evening at Jerusalem to all the apostles especially Thomas (John 20:24-29)

 7. Peter’s reinstatement with seven disciples fishing on Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)

 8. The eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-18)

 9. Over 500 disciples at once --location uncertain (1Corinthians 15:6)

 10. James, Paul and all Apostles (1Corinthians 15:7-8)

 11. The Apostles (and probably others) during forty days prior to his ascension (Acts 1:1-11)

 12. At the Mount of Olives near Bethany at his ascension (Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:6-12)

 13. After his ascension, to Stephen the martyr (Acts 7:55-56)

 14. Saul on road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9, 1Corinthians 15:8-9)

 15. John on the island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9-19)

<https://reasonsforjesus.com/13-different-resurrection-appearances-made-jesus/>

<https://www.simplybible.com/f40a-bilis-resurrection-appearances.htm>

1. Jesus promised all His followers that he would send them the **Helper**, His Holy Spirit.

Job 29:12 12 Because I delivered the poor who cried for help, **And the orphan** (John 14:18) who had no helper.

Psalm 30:10-31:1 10 "Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me; O LORD, be my helper." 11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, 12 That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 54:4-7 4 Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.

 5 He will recompense the evil to my foes; Destroy them in Your faithfulness.

 6 Willingly I will sacrifice to You; I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good. 7 For He has delivered me from all trouble, And my eye has looked *with satisfaction* upon my enemies.

Psalm 72:11-14 11 And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him.

 12 For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, The afflicted also, and him who has no helper. 13 He will have compassion on the poor and needy, And the lives of the needy he will save.

John 14:14-20 14 He will rescue their life from oppression and violence, And their blood will be precious in his sight; 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. **18 "I will not leave you as orphans**; **(Job 29:12**) I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

John 14:26-31 26 "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 said to you. 27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; **(Daniel 10:18-19)** not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. 28 "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 "Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. 30 "I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; 31 but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

John 15:26-2 26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27 and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:7-11 7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Hebrews 13:5-6 5 *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6 so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

We must take notice that the idea of God being the **Helper to orphans** are hallmarks of God’s nature and character in the Old Testament (See page 2 - Job 29:12 and Psalms 30,54,72).

1. When Jesus commissioned His followers, He added “**Peace be with you**” as it is the power they must have to be effective (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 21). Remember that Jesus is the prophesied “Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) who came to bring peace to the world (John 16:33) and was sacrificed upon a Cross to pay the debt (propitiation – Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17;1 John 2:2; 4:10) for our sins in the City of Peace. . . Jerusalem. Remember, the etymology in the name “Jerusalem” means “Foundation-Peace.”

**Peace Offering: L**eviticus 7:11–21; Three specific Peace offering sacrifices.

**First** - a freewill offering, saying thank you to God’s generosity and praise

Him for His goodness.

**Second -** to fulfilled vow. . . as when Hannah fulfilled her vow to God by

bringing Samuel to the temple;

**Third -** to give thanksgiving for God’s deliverance in an hour of dire need.

Note: None of these three reasons to sacrifice had anything to do with propitiation, with appeasing God, or with pacifying Him.

https://www.gotquestions.org/peace-offering.html

**Daniel 10:18-19. . . A Messianic Vision of Daniel who wrote between 536-530 B.C.**

**King Cyrus of Persia issued a decree allowing Jews to return from Babylon (537 B.C.)**

18 Then *this* one with human appearance touched me again and strengthened me.19 He said, "O man of high esteem, do not be afraid. **Peace be with you**; take courage and be courageous!" Now as soon as he spoke to me, I received strength and said, "May my lord speak, for you have strengthened me."

1. During Jesus three and one-half-year ministry period and during the Resurrection ministry time. . .Jesus commissioned all His followers to evangelize the world (Matthew 28:19; Mark 13:10; Luke, 24:47; John 17:18, 20:21-22). We must remember that Jesus did not commission His Apostles and disciples to be successful on their own in fulfilling His Great Commission. No. Jesus equipped them with His power and authority to be successful. Non-believers, and perhaps some Believers, think that being a Christian means God is asking us to live on our own. No. Living the Christian life is not a self-empowering life (Ephesians 2:8). Nicodemus came to Jesus by night to ask Him how He can do the works that He does (John 3). It is essential that Believers and non-believers receive the clarity in Jesus’ words in response to Nicodemus’ question.

**John 3:1** Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

 2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him,

"Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

 **3 Jesus answered and said to him,**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."

 **4 Nicodemus said to Him,**

"How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

 **5 Jesus answered,**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot **enter** into the kingdom of God.

 6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

 7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

 8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

 **9 Nicodemus said to Him,**

"How can these things be?"

 **10 Jesus answered and said to him,**

"Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?

11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

From the teaching Jesus gave Nicodemus, we can reflect upon His words recorded by John which are aimed not only at Nicodemus but to all Believers. From Jesus’ teaching we can see that He was our example to show us that it is God at work *in us* and not *we at work in ourselves* that accomplishes the Great Commission.

John 5:19-20 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. 20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.

John 14:16-20  16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. **18 "I will not leave you as orphans**; **(Job 29:12**) I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

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John 16:7-8 7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Jesus told Nicodemus, that to do the things He (Jesus) was doing, a person must be empowered (reborn of Spirit) by God’s Holy Spirit (John 3). Jesus tells Nicodemus that he has to be reborn of Spirit to do the things God has ordained for him/us to accomplish. Again, going to John 5:19 when Jesus said. . . "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. Therefore, Jesus is our example of God at work in a person. Remember, the secondary goal of God incarnating himself as Jesus the Messiah, is for Jesus to demonstrate for us the Spirit-empowered life God desires for us to live.

But before we can be God’s disciples, we have to become God’s disciples. Therefore, Jesus teaches Nicodemus that he cannot **see** or **enter** the kingdom of God unless he becomes reborn of Spirit. God’s rebirth is accessed by our surrendering request to Him. God was clear with His prophet Ezekiel to the nation of Israel. 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them (Ezekiel 36:37). The best New Testament example of this teaching is in Acts 2:37. “Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

1. We need to keep Paul’s words in mind from Ephesians 2:8-10, as we read the Lord’s interaction with Saul, before he was Paul (Acts 9). Paul reflects upon himself with these words, and they obviously apply to all people, Believers and non-believers. God has a redemptive-plan and a life-plan for all people because He does not desire to lose one person (2 Peter 3:9). Obviously, to access God’s life plan, a person has to surrender their heart to Him.

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. **AMEN**