

# The Power of Easter Partnership

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Easter Sunday Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>*

The Resurrection is Central to our Faith and Hope! 1Cor. 15:17-19

*"If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins... If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"*

*"Most miserable"* certainly seems to describe the disciples during those 3 days.

*Jesus had tried repeatedly to prepare them for what was about to happen.*

A Few weeks before (Mt. 16:21-23); A few days before (Jn 12:28; Mt 26:2)

## 1. Jesus renewed his invitation to Join (*Partner with*) him

Jn 14:2,27 *"I go to prepare a place for you... Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

**My Peace (eirēnē) → Join Me!**

**A. The Price to obtain this Partnership is symbolized:**

1) In the Passover. Lk 22:7;15; 1 Cor. 5:7; John 1:29; Rev. 13:8

2) In the communion supper. 1 Cor 10:15 *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"*

a) Communion: Koinōnia which means Fellowship, Communion, Partnership!

Lk 22:19,20 *"he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."*

## 2. Satan is also subtly seeking partners! Gen. 3:1; Lk 22:21-31; 2 Cor 11:2,3

Luke 22:21 *"But behold, the hand of him that betrays me is with me on the table."*

Jesus knew this and still loved & served him. (Jn 6:70)

**A. Notice their reactions. Luke 22**

1) Initial sorrow followed by self reflection. Vs 22 *"Exceeding sorrowful... Lord is it I"*

2) Self reflection soon gave way to accusation. Lk 22:23

3) Self Promotion. Vs 24: *"And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."* Satan was after each of them. (1 Pt 5:8)

In Mt 26:31 Jesus warned *"all ye shall be offended because of me this night..."*

**B. Notice Jesus' Explanation. Vs 31** *"Simon, Simon behold, Satan hath desired to have you, (exaiteo: excited!; demanded from ek: out of or from and aiteo: desire/ require) that he may sift you as wheat."*

1) What gave Satan room to work? Lk 32:31; Mt 26:33,34 *"Peter answered ... Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be... Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."*

a) None of them expected Judas could betray Jesus. (John 13:25-30)

b) None of them could conceive that any of them could be "offended" by Jesus, (Mt 26:31) But later that night Mk 14:50 reveals that *"they all forsook him and fled"*

c) Peter's pride made him an easy target (potential partner) as well. (Lk 22:31; Mt 26:69-75)

**C. Notice Jesus' invitation to them. Vs 32** *"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."*

1) Enroute to Gethsemane. Jn 15 "Abide in me..."

2) At Gethsemane. Lk 22:39-46 40 "Pray that ye enter not into temptation..." 46 "Pray, lest ye enter into temptation." **Proseuchomai: shift toward/ seek God!** (Mt. 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Jn 18:1)

**Sadly, they joined the wrong side. That same night:**

Judas betrayed him; Peter denied him; they all forsook him. (Mt 26:56)

Because of this, they spent the next three days in misery and despair. (Jn 20:19)

### **Conclusion:**

Before the disciples could experience the peace of Christ and the power of His resurrection;

They had to go through a process of Partnership, leading to peace. (Joining God)

Satan understands this process better than we do! He tries to trap us in the tyranny of the temporary, with little thought or patience for God's plan or process!

He pressures us to "join him" by making choices that reflect our immediate feelings and fears, instead of our Faith!

During the dark (desert) times, he seeks to drive us to despair and convince us that "all is lost." Paul understood God's process. Phil. 3:7-10 *"what things were gain to me, I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having my own righteousness...but the righteousness of God by faith. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection; and the fellowship (partnership) of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death..."*

### **Application:**

➤ God is seeking to shape (adjust) us! (Ro. 8:28,29)

➤ Satan seeks to shift (sidetrack us) from God through sin. (Heb. 12:1,2)

All the disciples repeated this "shift" in focus for these three days and as a result:

They "partnered" with Satan (instead of God) and Their faith (and peace) sank accordingly!

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Heb. 12:2 "*looking unto Jesus, the author & finisher of our faith. For consider Him...*

(Analogiz'omai: proportion, estimate, evaluate) *Lest ye be weary and faint in your minds"*

Noun: The correct, or ideal relationship between one thing and the parts of a whole.

Verb: To adjust or regulate (something) so that it has a suitable relationship to something else.

If we fail to properly consider (proportion) Jesus, we'll also "faint in our minds"

Do you need to make some "adjustments" so that your relationship (partnership) with Jesus is appropriately aligned Enabling you to experience "His Peace"?

(Jn 14:27; Mt 11:28-29; Mark 16:6,7 )

Isaiah 9:6

*"...his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

**The apostles made that choice and allowed God to "shape them".**

**That choice "changed" them and God, through them,**

**Changed the world!**