



Harmonychurch.life

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.

This month's Memory Verse is:

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33b, NIV

This month's life app is

HOPE

"Believing that something good can come out of something bad"

Weekly, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story and Life App So far this month our bottom lines have been:

- 1) **Whatever happens, remember God is always at work** (The Crucifixion)
- 2) **Whatever happens, remember God loves you** (The Resurrection)
- 3) **Whatever happens, remember you can always trust God** (The Miraculous Catch)

The **Bottom Line** this week:

Whatever happens, remember, God has a job for you. (The Great Commission)

Last week we talked about how the disciples had seen Jesus a few times since His resurrection, but still, they missed Him very much. The last time they had seen Jesus he told them to go to Galilee. There is a sea in Galilee and one day they decided to go fishing. They stayed out all day and all night and had absolutely no luck. The next morning, as they were about to head to shore, a stranger called to them from the shore and suggested they try throwing their net onto the right side of the boat. After thinking this guy must be crazy, we've tried that already, they decided it wouldn't hurt to try just one more time.

Who knows what happened? Exactly, they ended up with a catch so big they couldn't even pull in the net, they had to leave it in the water and pull it along the boat all the way to shore. Who was the stranger on the shore? Yes, it was Jesus. When the disciples realized who it was Peter jumped into the water and swam to meet Him. Once everyone was there, they all had a nice big breakfast.

We all know, Peter loved Jesus very much, but he had done something he was truly sorry for. A few weeks earlier, when Jesus and the apostles had been eating the Last Supper together Peter told Jesus that he would be willing to die for him. Then, when Jesus was arrested, Peter got scared. He did not die for Jesus. He hadn't been brave, at all. He told people that he did not even know Jesus. He denied Christ three times. Peter wondered if Jesus could ever forgive him.

Well, after breakfast Jesus asked Peter a question.

“Peter, do you really love me?”

Peter answered, “You know that I love you, Lord.”

Jesus then said, “Feed my lambs.”

Then Jesus asked again, “Peter, do you really love me?”

Peter answered again, “You know I love you, Lord.”

“Take care of my sheep,” Jesus repeated.

Finally, Jesus asked again, “Peter, do you love me?”

(John 21:15-17)

Peter felt terrible because Jesus kept asking him. Asking the question three times reminded him of the three times he had denied Christ.

“Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said “Peter, feed my sheep.”

Jesus asked Peter if he loved Him 3 times just like Peter had denied Him 3 times. Even though Peter had denied Jesus during his trial, Jesus forgave Peter. Not only did Jesus forgive Peter, He gave Peter a way to show Jesus how much he loved Him.

Later, Jesus invited His disciples to meet Him on top of a mountain there in Galilee. The disciples went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. None of the men knew what Jesus was going to say, but they had big expectations because Jesus was back! They believed anything was possible! He had come back to life!

When they saw Jesus there, they praised and worshiped Him. Jesus told them:

“You must go and make disciples of all nations.

Baptize them and teach them everything I have taught you.

I will be with you always, to the very end.”

(Matthew 28:19)

Amazing isn't it. Jesus said for the disciples tell people about Him from one end of the earth to the other.

The disciples were confused though. How in the world were they supposed to make followers of Jesus from all nations? How were they going to be able to remember everything that Jesus had ever taught them?

A few days later, when they were back in Jerusalem, Jesus gave them some more information. As they were eating together, Jesus told them;

'Do not leave Jerusalem. ... Wait for the gift my Father promised.

You have heard me talk about it.

John baptized with water.

But in a few days,

you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

(Acts 1:4-5)

As Jesus spoke the disciples' anticipation only grew. They couldn't help but wonder what was going to happen. Would Jesus free all the Israelites from the Roman Empire or was He was going to take over as king...

Jesus continued;

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.

Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria.

And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.'

(Acts 1:8)

It seems like Jesus was talking about spreading another kind of kingdom—God's Kingdom. Wow, Jesus mission for them was HUGE. But before the disciples could ask any other questions, something incredible happened.

Jesus began to rise into the air, right before their very eyes! He rose further and further into the sky until finally ... He was gone. The disciples didn't know exactly what to do. Was Jesus coming back soon? They just stood there staring into the sky

Suddenly, two angels appeared before Jesus' followers. They asked,

'Why do you stand here looking at the sky?

Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven.'

(Acts 1:11)

But the disciples were confused by their words. A few days before, Jesus had plainly stated that He would always be with them, but how were they to continue—to persevere—with Jesus gone? It didn't make any sense! But Jesus also said to wait in Jerusalem for a gift from God. So, they did.

In Jerusalem, the disciples waited and waited and waited. Not really knowing what they were waiting for, they continued to gather together, including on the day of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. As they gathered, they heard a sound like none they'd heard before.

It filled the whole house that they were in! That's when they saw something odd. What they saw looked like something like fire in the shape of tongues bursting out of thin air!

As they watched, the flame broke apart, came down, and rested on each of the disciples. The flames didn't burn them or hurt them. As they opened their mouths, they began to speak in languages they didn't know!

It was God's Holy Spirit; the gift Jesus had spoken about before He went back to heaven! He, the Holy Spirit, gave the disciples the ability to speak in different languages and share the good news about Jesus with everyone—not just those in Jerusalem, but from one end of the earth to the other, just like Jesus had said!

During this time, Jews from every country were staying in Jerusalem because there was a feast going on. These Jews had never heard Jesus' story! So, with the help of the Holy Spirit who was now living inside of them, the disciples began speaking as they had never before. A large crowd gathered and they were amazed! No matter what country each person was from, they heard the message of Jesus in their own language!

Peter shared all about Jesus of Nazareth. How God had performed miracles, wonders, and signs through Jesus. Then Jesus was nailed to a cross and died. But it was all a part of God's plan—God raised Him from the dead, proving Jesus to be both Lord and Messiah. Peter challenged the massive crowd to turn away from their sins, ask for forgiveness, and be baptized in the name of Jesus—just as Jesus commanded. Not wanting to leave out one of the best parts, he explained they would also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. After Peter finished up, nearly 3,000 people made decisions to follow Jesus and were baptized that day!

Can you imagine what an amazing day that must have been! It was clear that God was with the disciples and all who believed in Jesus. Through His Holy Spirit, Jesus could help them carry the good news of Jesus from one end of the earth to the other! How else would His disciples be able to speak so many languages they had never spoken before? How else would so many people come to an understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus did for them? God was with them.

It's important to remember that God is with us too. If we're followers of Jesus, His Holy Spirit lives inside of us—so He's always with us! And each of us carries the same mission as Jesus' disciples. We are to share Jesus' story with all those around us as we go through life. It wasn't an easy road for the disciples. There was lots of waiting and lots of questions. However, even when life got difficult, they knew Jesus was with them. My life and your life will be difficult, too. But it's important to remember that Jesus will always be with us and God will help us accomplish what He has for us to do!

Whatever happens, remember, God has a job for you.

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for the love You showed us when You sent Your Son to the cross to pay for our sins so we could have a relationship with You. We know without that selfless act, we would be apart from You forever. But You didn't want that, so You sent Your Son. We also thank You for sending us Your very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to live inside of us and be with us always. We ask for You to help us remember that You are always with us—even when life gets hard and we ask that You help us to do the job You have given us. To tell everyone about Jesus and what he has done for us. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.