

“In between - Do what needs to be done”

Lord Jesus, grant me your Spirit that I would proclaim your word in Truth and Power and that all who listen would hear what you have to say to them. To the glory of the heavenly Father. Amen.

The Apostle Peter said “For it is written in the Book of Psalms, “May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it”; and “Let another take his office.’ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.” Acts 1:20-26

We live in between. The past is behind us and time moves us on to the future. We have memories of the past and hopes, plans for the future. We live in between.

The followers of Jesus were in between. They had all the memories, His words - powerful, deep, His actions miracles. The highest of joy knowing, being with the Messiah of God, in the glory of the Temple of God. Unbelievable pain, grief, betrayal, crucifixion. Despair!

He returned, He returned in power, divine power, glory, alive beyond life. They worshipped Him. His glory, power washed over them. He spoke, they heard, they touched Him. He appeared, was with them. He disappeared vanished. They wanted Him to stay. He left. Returned to His Father and told them to stay. To stay in Jerusalem, until. Until He sent the Holy Spirit, who would be with them forever, never leave, guide, remind.

They were in between. We live in between. So what do we do now? here? Wait, sit around? Is that what He wants? No! We are to do what needs to be done. What does that mean? Jesus has left us instructions. He plainly tells us what to do. The book of instruction - torah is another word for it, is the Bible, the Spirit inspired, Spirit filled Word of God. In addition, He

has filled us with His Holy Spirit to understand and evaluate His meanings to guide us.

And we have something more than the first followers had. The Holy Spirit has been with the Church, with us, for 2000 years guiding. In that history, the truth, the Word of God, His will, character, is revealed, obvious for all who open their eyes to see and their ears to hear. Standard Christianity, catholic with a small "c", orthodox - it means straight teaching. What has always been taught from the beginning, everywhere - universal, by everyone.

False ideas also have some things in common. They begin from someone but someone who takes a stand outside those standards, and teaches their personal ideas (nearly always they claim to be guided by the spirit with a better way to understand scriptures)

The Holy Scriptures were written in a different time and culture. They are spiritually understood - that does not mean they are not correct. It does mean that we cannot look at them with the same rules of understanding we do for a modern History or Science Book. The Bible cannot be understood by Twenty first century human logic or by Sixteenth human logic.

It is important for you, to know something about Luther and Lutheranism. Luther would not like what we have become. He was a very well educated, a great

scholar Augustinian monk. One of the great theological intellects in the history of the church. He intended to start nothing new. He was not introducing new ideas, that had never been before. He was restoring the gospel, the good news of God's free gift of eternal salvation that had been covered over by the Papacy for political power and monetary income. He would not like that we have made Lutheranism into something separate.

"In between - Do what needs to be done" They read the word's of the Holy Scriptures and guided by the Holy Spirit filled in the twelve disciple. "One of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us". We only think of twelve. We never think of their families, wives and children came along. We never pay attention to all the rest. This is the first, only time we hear of Joseph BarSabbas - son of the sabbath-holy day called the Just or of Matthias. They are some of the men who were with Jesus from the beginning. How many were there in all. Did Jesu have a normal retinue of 30? 50? 150? more? Jesus traveled, led a large group. One hundred twenty were staying in the upper room. Realize there was much more there than just a room.

It is too much for artists to picture, just as it is too hard to picture the two million in Jerusalem for Passover. There were that many who lived within a three or four day walk. Most, including Jesus followers, had gone back home to gather the barley harvest. Now they were coming back for Pentecost.

“In between - Do what needs to be done” What do you need to do? What does Living Water need to do? What does the Scripture say? What does the Holy Spirit guide? What false ideas do we need to avoid, be careful of? What is God’s will for you, for us?

It is really really simple. God, your Father, your maker, creator, wants you to love Him, with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind. Basically He wants you to love Him with the same passion, the same intensity that He has for you. Jesus died so His Father could show He loves You victoriously forever. How can we tell God, ‘I love You?’ You are doing that here, now! He commands us to worship Him every Holy day come into His House. You do want to spend eternity in His house worshipping Him with all the saints, angels, cherubim seraphim. Don’t you? Think of this a choir rehearsal.

It is really really simple, God wants you to love every one else of His children with the same passion He has for you. Some of them bother us. We do not

feel they deserve our love or concern. Well, we did not deserve God’s love. Being Loved changes everything. I was talking with a friend about a friend who has suffered a lifetime of hurt and feels guilty for hurts done to others. Needs to come to Jesus for comfort. He knows He understands. He knows we are all like that. Like when a child comes bleeding, broken bone, pain. What the child wants is to be wrapped in your arms, loved, first. Bandages doctors have their place. Love is first. Jesus Loves You, passionately, victoriously. No evil, no pain, not even death or Satan defeats His love for you.

You are living in between, birth and death. Jesus is coming for you. You will assuredly be seeing Jesus with your own eyes, stand before Him. He wants to welcome you into His arms of love forever. In between, live Loving Him and loving all He loves.

God has given you love, victorious love beyond all understanding, you are held in His hands, your heart and mind are kept in Christ Jesus Amen.

7 S after Easter

Acts 1:(1-11) 12-26

1 John 5:9-15

May 17, 2015

May 24, 2015

S after Ascension

Psalm 1

John 17:11b-19

Living Water Rosedale

Berea