

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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What Jesus Taught His Disciples After His Resurrection

by Dan Trygg

“And He said to them, ‘O foolish (unperceptive) ones and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?’ ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” Luke 24:25-27

“These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and 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 Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’” Luke 24:44-49

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

“To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. ⁴ And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ ⁶ And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’” Acts 1:3-8

Sometimes, when we think of Jesus’ cry, “It is finished!”, we imagine that His work was *done*. In one sense, it *was*, in that He completed the *payment* for our sins. The Greek word underlying that phrase that Jesus cried out from the cross is *tetelestai*, which means “it has been completed”. It was the word which commonly was written upon contracts and bills when they were paid off. It meant, “paid in full”. So, with that background in mind, **Jesus had, indeed, paid the price for our sin, ...but, He had not yet completed His work, or His mission.** At that time, He had taken our sins upon Himself, and paid for them, ...but He also was taking *us* into Himself, so that we could *die* with Him, be *buried* with Him, and *rise* together with Him. *That part* had not yet been completed. **And, He had not yet finished training His disciples. And, He Himself had yet to receive the promise of the Father, and pour out the Holy Spirit upon the church. The focus of this study has to do with what He taught His disciples during the 40 days after His resurrection.** It was during this time that He completed the training of His men, and prepared them for the next steps in their “kingdom-calling”, their mission.

Aside from repeatedly appearing to them over the 40 days following His resurrection, and showing them by “many convincing proofs” that He had, indeed, risen from the dead, ...alive and well, physical, able to be touched, felt, displaying the very same scars that had been afflicted upon Him, yet strong, undiminished, able to eat, laugh, converse, cook breakfast, spend time with them in inner rooms of the house, but also to walk with them outside on the beach. They needed to be solidly convinced of His resurrection. They were going to be His witnesses, ...testifiers to others that He had, indeed, risen from the dead. That was an important part of what He was doing during that period.

But there was more. He was also teaching them. There were things they needed to know and understand that they had not yet clearly perceived. When you look at the passages above, you can see that **the things He was teaching them fall into three categories: (1.) they needed to see and understand that Jesus’ life and work was the clear fulfillment of prophecies that were recorded in the Hebrew scriptures; (2.) they needed further instruction about their mission, ...what they were to be doing from this point on; and, (3.) they needed to clearly understand their dependence upon the Holy Spirit, and wait for His empowerment.**

Jesus’ Life and Work Fulfilled OT Prophecies The prophecies fulfilled in Christ fall into five general categories: (a.) His origins; (b.) the nature of His ministry; (c.) that He would suffer, die, and rise again; (d.) repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all nations; and, (e.) He will come in glory to judge the nations. We aren’t going to focus on *all* of that here. It would take too much time and space. We will focus on (c.) and (d.), because that appears to be what Jesus focused on during those 40 days. But, briefly:

(a.) Jesus' origins fulfilled OT prophecies. It was said that His origins were from eternity. He existed before creation (Isa. 9:6; Mic. 5:2; cf. Jn. 1:1). He would be “the seed of the woman”, ...born of a virgin (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; cf. Lk. 1:28-29). He would be a descendant of Abraham, Judah, David (Gen. 12:3; 22:18; 49:10; 2 Sam. 6:12-16; Isa. 9:7; cf. Matt. 1:1,3,6; Gal. 3:16). He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Mic. 5:2; cf. Lk. 2:4), and would be called “Immanuel” (meaning, “God with us”) (Isa. 7:14; cf. Matt. 1:18-23). He would be a “branch” or “sprout” from the root of Jesse (Isa. 11:1; Cf. Isa. 4:2; 11:10; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12). Because He grew up in Nazareth (from the Hebrew word for “sprout”), throughout His life Jesus was literally called “Jesus the Nazarene”, or “Jesus the Sprout/Branch” (cf. Matt. 2:22,23). God would send a “messenger” as a forerunner to prepare the way for His coming (Mal. 3:1; Isa. 40:3; cf. Lk. 3:3-6; 7:24-27; Jn. 1:29-34). He would publicly show up 483 years after a decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan. 9:24-26). From the time that the Persian King, Artaxerxes, commissioned Ezra's return in 457 B.C., this works out to be 26 A.D., the very same year Luke said John the Baptist and Jesus showed up on the scene (Ezra 7:8; cf. Lk. 3:1). God would even declare Him to be His “Son” (Psa. 2:7; cf. Matt. 3:17; 17:5). – 12+ prophecies.

(b.) The nature of Jesus' ministry was what the Messiah would do, according to the OT scriptures. He would preach good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners (Isa. 61:1,2; cf. Lk. 4:18,19). As the introducer of the Messianic age, He would open the eyes of the blind, heal the lame, restore hearing to the deaf, enable the dumb to speak (Isa. 29:18,19; 35:5,6; cf. Matt. 11:2-5). It was said that He would speak in parables (Psa. 78:2-4; cf. Matt. 13:34,35). He would be a prophet like Moses, who had intimacy with Yahweh, spoke with authority, and did signs and wonders by God's power (Deut. 18:15; 34:10,11; cf. Matt. 21:11; Lk. 7:16; Jn. 7:16,17; 12:47-49; Acts 3:19-26). He would bring the glory of God to Galilee, along “the way of the sea”. This was the caravan route that was on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus did most of His miracles and preaching (Isa. 9:1,2; cf. Matt. 4:13-16). He would call the people of Israel back to God (Isa. 49:5,6; cf. Mk. 1:14,15; Matt. 10:5-8). He would be a light to the nations (Isa. 49:6; cf. Jn. 8:12). He would come into Jerusalem as a humble King, riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9; cf. Mk. 11:7-11). He would be honored and praised by infants and small children (Psa. 8:2; cf. Matt. 21:15,16). – 10+ prophecies.

(c.) The rejection, suffering, death and resurrection of Christ was prophesied in the OT scriptures. He would not be believed (Isa. 53:1; cf. Jn. 12:37,38). He would be despised and rejected by His own people (Isa. 49:7; 53:3; cf. Jn. 1:11; Lk. 23:18). He would be rejected by the leaders, as a stone is rejected by the builders (Psa. 118:22; cf. Matt. 21:42-46; Acts 4:10,11). He would be betrayed by a close friend, someone who even ate with Him (Psa. 41:9; cf. Jn. 13:21-26). He would be sold out for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; cf. Matt. 26:15). His disciples would scatter upon His arrest, like sheep would scatter when their shepherd is struck (Zech. 13:7; cf. Matt. 26:31,56). He would be hated without reason (Psa. 35:19; cf. Jn. 15:24). He would be “taken away” unjustly by coercion (Isa. 53:8; cf. Matt. 26:55,56). He would be accused by false witnesses (Psa. 35:11; cf. Mk. 14:57,58). He would be silent before His accusers (Isa. 53:7; cf. Mk. 15:4,5). He would be spat on and beaten (Isa. 50:6; cf. Matt. 26:67). He would be whipped (Isa. 53:5; cf. Jn. 19:1). He would be “lifted up” as a sign, like the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so that whoever would look on Him in faith could be saved from the death caused by the serpent (Num. 21:6-9; cf. Jn. 3:14,15). They would pierce Him -- His hands, His feet (Psa. 22:16; cf. Act 2:33; Jn. 20:19-35), and also His side (Zech. 12:10; cf. Jn. 19:34). He would be counted with the transgressors (Isa. 53:12; cf. Mk. 15:27,28). He would be offered both gall and vinegar (Psa. 69:21; cf. Matt. 27:34). They would sneer at Him and mock Him (Psa. 22:7,8; cf. Lk. 23:35). He would be insulted (Psa. 69:9; cf. Rom. 15:3). They would divide His garments among them, and gamble for His clothing (Psa. 22:18; cf. Jn. 19:23,24). His soul would be “poured out like water” (Psa. 22:14; Jn. 19:34). He would be a substitutionary sacrifice God would provide on Mount Moriah, just outside of Jerusalem (Gen. 22:13,14; cf. Heb. 13:12,13). He would be a sacrificial Passover Lamb, whose blood would protect from the judgment of death (Ex. 12; cf. 1 Cor. 5:7). He would suffer as a sacrifice for the sins of others (Isa. 53:5; cf. Rom. 5:6,8). God would lay the iniquity of all people upon Him (Isa. 53:6,8; cf. 2 Cor. 5:14-21). He would offer Himself to be a guilt offering, and He would bear the iniquities of us all (Isa. 53:6,11; cf. Matt. 26:38-42; Rom. 3:21-25). He would be forsaken by God (Psa. 22:1; cf. Matt. 27:35,36). None of His bones would be broken (Psa. 34:20; cf. Jn. 19:32,33,36). His grave would be assigned to be with criminals, but He would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9; cf. Matt. 27:57-60). His soul would go into Sheol (Psa. 16:10; cf. 1 Pet. 3:18-20; Eph. 4:8-10). God would not abandon Him in Sheol, and His flesh would not decay (Psa. 16:10; 49:15; cf. Mk. 16:6,7; Acts 2:24-32). God would bring Him up from Sheol (Psa. 30:1-3; Acts 2:24; 3:26). Though severely punished, He would not remain dead, but would live (Psa. 118:17,18; cf. Lk. 24:5-7). He would be raised from the dead on the third day (Hos. 6:2; cf. 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Jon. 1:17; cf. Matt. 12:40). After making His soul an offering for sin, He would “see His offspring, and He would prolong His days, and the pleasure of Yahweh will prosper in His hands”, a clear reference to the resurrection (Isa. 53:10; cf. Rev. 1:18; Heb.

2:13; Jn. 12:24). From the travail of His soul, He would see and be satisfied at the justification of many (Isa. 53:11; cf. Heb. 12:2; Rev. 5:9,10). – 36+ prophecies.

(d.) Forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed through His name to all nations. It was always God's intention

to bless the nations through the "Seed" of Abraham, descended from Isaac (Gen. 12:3; 22:18; cf. Matt. 1:1,2; Gal. 3: 16). This "Seed" would possess the gate of the ones opposed to Him (Gen. 22:17; cf. Matt. 16:18; Rev. 1:18). Through the knowledge of the Messianic Servant, many would be justified (Isa. 53:11; cf. Rom. 5:18,19). The Messiah would bring salvation (Zech. 9:9; cf. Jn. 12:44-47). God would establish a new covenant with the house of Israel, writing His law upon their hearts. They will know Him and He will forgive their iniquity (Jer. 31:31-34; 32:37-41; cf. Heb. 8:6-11; 10:15-17). Yahweh will make His Servant to be a covenant and light to the nations, to set people free (Isa. 42:1-7; cf. Matt. 12:15-21; Acts 13:38-47). It was not enough for the Servant to restore Israel, Yahweh would make Him a light to the nations, so that His salvation may reach to the end of the earth (Isa. 49:1-6; 60; cf. Lk. 2:29-32; Acts 26:22,23). All nations will remember His suffering, and turn to Yahweh as King (Psa. 22:27,28; cf. Rev. 5:9,10). The nations will seek the Branch from Jesse's roots (Isa. 11:1,10; cf. Jn. 12:18-21; Rom. 15:12). He will be a signal to which they will come (Isa. 11:12; cf. Jn. 3:14-16). The Servant will be highly exalted, for His blood will sprinkle many nations (Isa. 52:15; cf. Heb. 9:13,14; Rev. 1:5). The salvation, glory and wonderful deeds of Yahweh are to be proclaimed among all peoples (1 Chron. 16:23-25; cf. Matt. 24:14). – 12+ prophecies. **The importance of the Spirit.** The Spirit of Yahweh will rest upon the Messianic shoot of Jesse (Isa. 11:1-3; cf. Matt. 3:16). God will put His Spirit upon the redeemed, who have turned from their sin, to put His word in their mouths (Isa. 59:20,21; cf. Lk. 12:11,12; Jn. 3:34). The Spirit of the Lord Yahweh would anoint His spokespeople to proclaim good news to the afflicted, to bind up the broken hearted, and proclaim liberty to captives. Strangers and foreigners would join God's people, and Yahweh will cause righteousness to spring up before all nations (Isa. 61:1-11; cf. Lk. 4:18,19; Matt. 11:5). The Spirit will anoint people to proclaim the time of God's favor, and also a time of His judgment (Isa. 61:2; cf. 2 Cor. 6:1,2). The Spirit will fill with power and judgment to proclaim to people their transgression and their disregard of God (Mic. 3:8; cf. Acts 1:8). God will pour out His Spirit of grace and supplication ('cries for mercy') so that people would look upon the One they pierced and be moved to repentance and mourning (Zech. 12:10; cf. Jn. 16:8-11). God promised to pour out His Spirit upon all people, to enable people to speak forth God's words, to bring inward revelation, and outward displays of power. Those who call upon the name of Yahweh will be saved (Joel 2:28-32; cf. Acts 2:1-41). – 7+ prophecies.

(e.) The Messiah will ascend to heaven, return in glory, gather His people, judge the nations, and reign upon

the earth. He would ascend into heaven (Psa. 68:18; cf. Acts 1:3-11; Eph. 4:8). He will sit at God's right hand, until all His enemies are subjected to Him (Psa. 110:1; cf. Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; 1 Cor. 15:27). He will receive an everlasting kingdom from the Most High (Dan. 7:14; cf. Heb. 12:28). He will come on the clouds of heaven (Dan. 7:13; cf. Matt. 24:30). He will come with His holy ones to defeat His enemies (Zech. 14:3-5; cf. Rev. 19:11-21). He will judge the nations (Psa. 96:10-13; 110:1-7; cf. Jn. 5:22; Acts 17:30,31). He will reign forever (Isa. 9:6,7; cf. Rev. 11:15). – 7+ prophecies.

In my collection above, I have included over 80 examples of biblical prophecy that have been, or will be, fulfilled in Christ. Even if we exclude the ones that have yet to be fulfilled, there are 75 examples, each with an OT passage, along with a NT fulfillment. The chance that anyone could randomly fulfill all of these is infinitesimally small. The prophecies themselves were written literally centuries beforehand. There was no narrative tying them all together. Yet, they came together precisely in the origin, birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth. The apostles had intimate day-to-day knowledge of Jesus for a period of several years. They could look back and recount these events, even though they did not recognize most of them as they were taking place. In order for them to be effective at proclaiming who Jesus was, what He came to do, and to carry out the mission He was giving to them, **Jesus thought it was necessary for them to see and understand how the things concerning Him that had been prophesied in the past had been fulfilled.**

It was during the 40 days after His resurrection that Jesus met with them repeatedly, laying out these scriptures to show them even more vividly the hand of God that had been at work among them.

They were witnesses of the things that had taken place during Jesus' ministry, His betrayal, arrest, suffering, death and the risen Jesus Himself tangibly appeared to them. But, they still did not clearly perceive it all!

This was GOD's plan and HIS hand sovereignly at work!

Jesus came *according to that plan,*

...lived the life *described by God in prophecy,*

...displayed the *miraculous power of God,*

.....died as *described hundreds of years in advance* as a substitutionary sacrifice,

....rose again on the 3rd day, and ascended to heaven, *...as predicted.*

Now, He was telling them to *go to the nations* (the Gentiles), and *declare the good news* of what He had done.

Jesus is the Messiah, the King of all kings, the One who conquered death, who will judge all people.

...He is *calling to all people everywhere to open their eyes, and to change their perception.*

They need to see *who He is,*

...*what He did,*

...*what it means,*

...*what He is calling them to,*

...and *what the consequences of their decision could be.*

Clearly seeing the handiwork of God in the details is a powerful part of conveying the truth of what they were announcing to people.

Finally, *they would need the ministry of the Holy Spirit to give them the power and ability to speak clearly and with boldness.* He is the One who can remove the veil of ignorance and spiritual dullness, to enable hearers to be able to understand and be moved to action.

What does it mean for *us*? I think we need to also familiarize ourselves with these passages, so that we can more clearly see the patient, gracious hand of God, ...and so that we can more effectively tell the story. Obviously, you can share the gospel message in very simple terms. You don't need to have *deep, deep* understanding and insight to give an introduction or overview of what the message of God's love entails. It is as simple as John 3:16. Yet, it is also so much *more*!

Jesus thought it was worth explaining *these* particular details to the men He had been working with for three years.

If *you* had day camp with Jesus for a month, *...this* is likely part of what He would want to explain to *you*.

Take some time with this. You will notice that some passages recur often. (Like Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22). Take time to get to know them, so that you could turn to them and explain to someone how they relate to Jesus.

Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher, the One to instruct and clarify your mind, ...the One to give you revelation, and the ability and courage to speak out the good news of God's love to those around you. There *is* a time, *...a limited time* ..., *...an acceptable time* ..., where people will be open and receptive to hear and respond.

Prepare yourself to tell the story, *...recount the history, ...and also describe your own testimony and experience.*

Also, this same God, who worked in such precise detail in the life of Jesus, is also working sovereignly in *your* life. Don't be surprised to see amazing circumstances come into your life, ...people and situations prepared ahead of time that are uniquely suited to who you are, or what you can do. **Just as you can *look back with eyes of faith and see God at work in history, ...get used to having eyes of faith to see God's working in your life today.***