

LIVING BETWEEN ALREADY AND NOT YET, Part 1

John 16:23-33

April 14, 2013

Everything was about to change. Earth's history would pivot on the events of the next 50 days. The age after the crucifixion and resurrection would be very different from the age before it.

That new day was dawning on this very night when Jesus would be arrested. And the events of the crucifixion would unfold: leading to the resurrection, leading to the ascension to heaven, leading to the giving of the Spirit and the birth of the church.

Jesus was getting His disciples ready for the age to come. Now here's what exciting for us: that "age to come" is our age.

But in some ways, we're stuck in the middle, between the first and second comings of Jesus. We live between the already and the not yet. So what is this day like for followers of Jesus?

This sermon will cover the first of eight characteristics. Our day is:

1. A day when we can have a clear understanding of the Father.

Jesus was trying to get them ready for what was coming next, but they were continually confused and asking questions.

a. We learn the truth plainly

The time of figurative speaking has ended. It is possible to know God like never before:

1. The death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.
2. The giving of the Holy Spirit.
3. The giving of the New Testament Scriptures by the Holy Spirit.

The point is not that Christians today know everything—but that the things that were so confusing to the disciples on that night, do not need to be confusing for us.

b. We live in the light of the gospel

As we live between the already and the not yet, we get to live in the light of the gospel.

1. What a privilege it is to wake up each morning
 - a. knowing that we are accepted by God
 - b. that we have been brought into union with His Son
 - c. that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus;
 - d. that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord
 - e. that God accepted Jesus' full payment of the penalty for our sin
 - f. that our certificate of debt and guilt has been nailed to the cross
2. We can go to sleep each night:
 - a. knowing that we already have eternal life
 - b. that the Spirit of God dwells in us
 - c. that Son and Spirit intercede for us today
3. We can interact with a hostile world knowing that Jesus has overcome it.



4. We can face the attacks of Satan knowing that he is a defeated foe, and that the One Who is in us is greater than the one who is the god of this world.
5. We can come boldly to the Father in prayer because a great high priest has torn open the veil and gone before us.
6. We can face our temptations with the power of a great high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses.
7. We can deal with our guilt because Jesus already has dealt with it.
8. We can take our marriages to the cross, and live them in the light of the relationship of Christ and His church.
9. We can forgive freely in our human relationships because of how we were forgiven at the cross.
10. We can love without strings attached because of how God loved us in Jesus.
11. We can live in peace with people of every race and social class and background and personality because Jesus has made us one in the body of Christ; and if they are not in the body of Christ we can still love them freely because God loved us freely when we were His enemies.
12. We can keep believing because Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.
13. We can rest because God put all things in subjection under Jesus' feet, and our king is on the throne right now.
14. We can face loneliness in the light of a Savior who calls us friends and promised to never leave us.
15. We can bear with physical pain as our outer man perishes, because the Spirit can strengthen us with might in our inner man and renew it every day.
16. We can stare death in the face because we know that because of the resurrection to die is gain, absent from the body is present with the Lord, to depart and be with Christ is far better.
17. We can look back to the crucified Christ, up to the risen and ascended Christ, in to the present Christ, ahead to the coming Christ.

Do you see the privilege that you have? Do you see how much has been made clear? Do you see how amazing this age is in which we live?! Do you see that right now between the already and the not yet Jesus has given us every truth we need to nourish and sustain our lives each day.

c. We must saturate ourselves in these clear Bible truths

That list I gave you just came from the New Testament Scriptures; and it was just a sample! It is a list of all the things that are ours today in the gospel, all the ways that the gospel transforms our daily lives; all that the New Testament tells us about our riches in Christ.

So now you must go this week, and live a life saturated in these Scriptures. We live in the day when we can have a clear understanding of the Father. There is no excuse - we have so much - we are so rich in Christ. So do not neglect what you have been given. You are the privileged ones; you are the ones who live in the day that Jesus spoke about. Go this week and feast on all that God has given you in Christ.

