

THIS SERMON IS A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

The Upper Room at Jerusalem

"He Will Show You a Large Upper Room; There Make Ready For Us" (Mark xiv, 15)

Jerusalem, April 24.—My friends, we meet today for the worship of God in traditionally one of the most renowned meeting places in the whole earth...

to leave them not only desolate in heart themselves, but despised by their neighbors as deceived fanatics. This is the anniversary, dear friends, of a day that was very sad to our brethren of 1877 years ago.

Tradition assures us that this is the same room mentioned in the Book of Acts (i, 13) as the place where the Apostles resided and assembled for worship during the ten days following the Lord's ascension—the same "upper room," therefore, in which was manifested the acceptance of all the consecrated followers of Jesus into Covenant relationship with God...

Mark how gently and how wisely the Lord permitted the light to shine in gradually upon his faithful few. The eyes of their understanding must not be blinded by an instantaneous flash. Gradually, as they were able to bear it, the good tidings of his resurrection from the dead to glory, honor and immortality on the divine plane must be made known to them.

Christ Our Passover. We are favored not only in respect to the use of the room, but additionally in respect to the time of our visit and our use of it. This, according to Jewish reckoning, is the first day of Passover Week—it began last evening at 6 o'clock. The three hours preceding that marked the time of our Lord's death and the begging by Joseph of Arimathea for the privilege of burying his body in his new tomb...

It was the same day (corresponding to to-morrow afternoon) that the Lord overtook two of the sorrowing disciples as they walked into the country to spend the night. Here again he would not shock them and overpower them by a vision of his glorious presence such as smote down Saul of Tarsus on his way to Damascus, "shining above the brightness of the sun at noon-day;" on the contrary he assumed a body of flesh and traveler's clothing and talked sympathetically with the two sorrowing ones.

As we look back to that memorable occasion we can sympathize with the Apostles and early believers in the blighting of all of their hopes by the apparent failure of Jesus to make good his claim of Messiahship. We can imagine better than we can describe their dejection, their disappointment. On the next day, corresponding to to-morrow, the two with whom Jesus met on the way to Emmaus said sadly, "We had trusted that it had been he who should have redeemed Israel" (Luke xxiv, 21).

Then said Jesus, in view of these expectations, "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory?" What else should be expected? Did he not foretell his own death? And did he not foretell his own resurrection? And were you not confused to understand his teachings to the full? Did not your minds run more to the coming glory than to what he said to you respecting the necessity that you should "watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation" and lose all your part and hope under these trying conditions?

While they still wondered with astonishment, he proved to them that their risen Lord was no longer merely a man, but that he had experienced a change in his resurrection, so that now he was a spirit being and could go and come like the wind—appearing in a body of flesh when his purposes so demanded. He gave proof of this by vanishing out of their sight, dissolving the body of flesh and bones and the clothing as easily as he had created them and by the same Divine power.

The Pentecostal Blessing. The glorified, resurrected Jesus remained with the infant Church for forty days, watching over their interests. On four or five occasions he appeared to them again in different forms and for the further incitement of the great lesson that he was risen and changed, henceforth a spirit being. They were ascended up on high to appear in the presence of God on behalf of his faithful ones first, as later on he will appear in the interest of the world. The Father's recognition of the merit of his sacrifice, applied "on our behalf," was manifested by the impartation of the holy Spirit on Pentecost day.

That blessing was a partial fulfillment of the Lord's word through the Prophet Joel, namely of that portion which says, "In those days will I pour out of my Spirit upon my servants and upon my handmaids" (Joel ii, 28). We are glad, dear friends, that what occurred at that first Pentecost and what has continued all through this Gospel Age, of Pentecostal blessing upon each individual member of the Body of Christ, is merely a foretaste of God's great favor towards Adam's race.

This will have its fulfillment during the Millennial Age, not that the world in general will be begotten of the holy Spirit to a spirit nature like unto the angels and like unto Christ, as in our case, but the Lord has promised to take away the stony heart and to give a heart of flesh to all the willing and obedient of mankind during that Millennial Day. In such, a right spirit shall be renewed as they become obedient to the gracious arrangements of Messiah's universal Empire and that right spirit in man, that right disposition, will be the holy Spirit—God's Spirit or disposition. It was given to man originally when he was created perfect, upright, in the image and likeness of God. It was lost by sin and displaced by a spirit of selfishness and sometimes by a spirit of devilishness.

Supper in the Upper Room. In closing we ask that in connection with what we have just said respecting this "Upper Room" and the blessings here conferred, you do not forget the special privilege which some twenty or thirty of us enjoyed in this same room on Friday evening last. We remind you afresh that that evening, after six o'clock, corresponded to the night in which our Lord with his disciples first celebrated the memorial of his own death with the loaf and with the cup, traditionally in this same "Upper Room." Incidentally we remark that the early Christian Church used this same Jewish reckoning in the annual celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection, but that, later on, the method of calculating the date was slightly modified so that this year Good Friday and Easter, according to the revised Ecclesiastical Calendar, occurred nearly a month ago—March 25-27. I feel sure that as long as I live I shall not forget the blessed experiences of Friday evening and its memorial celebration, in this "Upper Room," of the great event which means so much to the Church and to the world—which symbolizes the precious sacrifice of Christ and also, as the Apostle explains, symbolizes the participation of all the faithful members of Christ in his sacrifice—in the broken loaf and in the cup of which we partake antitypically. May we, dear friends, prove so faithful to our consecration Vows that we will be included by our glorious Lord amongst those who shall be counted worthy to share also his cup of joy and glory—participation in his Millennial Kingdom and his glorious work of blessing all the families of the earth!

PEARY TOURING THROUGH EUROPE

Will Probably Meet Theodore While Abroad—Will Return to United States in Six Weeks—Will Lecture in Several Places.

LONDON, May 2.—Commander Robert E. Peary, his wife and captain Bartlett arrived at Plymouth today, passengers on the North German liner Kron Princezen Cecilia for a six weeks stay in Europe. The party was loudly cheered by waiting crowds and surrounded by a swarm of newspaper men.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

At the Nash—S. M. Wood, Grants Pass; M. C. Winters, Portland; S. Garter, San Francisco; G. W. Whitson, San Francisco; Geo. E. Fraser, Seattle; C. H. Burggraf, Albany; W. W. McNaughton, New York; G. W. Hopkins, Boston; W. W. Harmon, Eagle Point; Sol Herzberg, Bath; J. Golding, New York; W. E. Lewis, San Francisco; H. G. Cooke, Chicago; L. C. Henderson, Hilt, Cal.; J. E. Woodward, Ludington, Md.; Geo. P. Mims, Seven Oaks; J. R. Harvey, Galice; W. H. Adams, Portland; H. J. Loughlan, New York; J. M. Goar, St. Louis; W. W. Hoover, Rochester, N. Y.

At the Moore—R. J. Cole, Coles; W. T. Smith, Portland; R. M. Duffy, Portland; C. J. Kersberg, San Francisco; W. G. Marlett, San Francisco; J. G. Donaldson, Cincinnati; A. J. Wright, Sacramento; Lester Spurgeon, Sacramento; F. M. Lewis, Honolulu; Mr. and Mrs. Sims, Medford; A. C. Briggs and wife, Ashland; R. A. Whitney, Medford; Jas. R. Ker-

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