

WELCOME 22nd May 2022 – 6 Easter '22 C

Revelation 10:1-11 & 11:15-19

Welcome! It's great to be together again...*Bible Study Qs* are provided to equip you so God can lead you deeper into His word & work in your life, then you can share that w/ someone else. We also use them for our *Zoom Bible Study Catch-up*. We're still doing things we need to maintain a level of safety: Hand sanitizer. Masks optional but certainly your choice. Thanks set-up & clean-up folks!

As we move into this week...As I child...I loved baseball. It was, & maybe still is America's favourite pastime. To watch the teams play on TV/or at the Astrodome was a highlight of my Spring/Summer nights. But even more fun...the neighborhood pick-up games down at a vacant lot up the block where all the kids in the street would grab gloves balls & bats & just play. I thought I would die of excitement when I played Little League for a few years. Somewhere there're pictures of me dressed in the real baseball gear. Old-man-church-league softball was non-negotiable for a few years when my knee still worked & it really didn't matter if I could run fast.

Reality is...like everything else in life...when you go from being a spectator to a participant the fun multiplies. I hated guitar lessons, but when I hung in there long enough to actually be able to play in a church-camp-band...small slice of heaven.

John is granted a vision no other disciple has...of the fullness of God's kingdom & glory as it drives in the on-going & future fulfillment Christ has won for us. Today, he is reminded that his work doesn't stop with seeing...it involves doing.

"Go, take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea & on the land...Yes, take it & eat it," John must take God's word into his own life & then...**"You** must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, & kings." From spectator to participant w/ a message for the world: **"The** world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord & of his Christ, & he will reign forever & ever."

Christ is risen. He rules over all...and the Father is working even now through his church by his Spirit to gather the lost, strengthen the faithful & share boldly the gift of life & joy that last forever.

Special guest...Kate Lieschke will give us a glimpse into how the ministry we support at CSU takes that commission...moving from spectator to participant & lives it out on & beyond the campus & encourages each of us to do the same.

We'll explore & experience that together...Let's pray...then hear God's Word...

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Psalm 106:1-5

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.

Who can list the glorious miracles of the Lord?

Who can ever praise him enough?

*Remember me, Lord, when you show favour to your people;
come near and rescue me.*

Let me share in the prosperity of your chosen ones.

Let me rejoice in the joy of your people;

let me praise you with those who are your heritage.

Gracious God, you called us as your own through your Son, & grant strength for your will by your Spirit. Equip us today by your Word for whatever is required in your world. Let us know the joy of those gathering your harvest. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Revelation 10

**6 EASTER '22 C – IN CHRIST'S HANDS:
UNVEILING THE NEW REALITY – SHARING BOLDLY**

E. King Gill...you have no reason to know him at all...but my university years were steeped in his legacy. Gill was a basketball player for **Tx** A& M University in the early 1920's. He also worked as a spotter in the press box for the newspaper sports writers who covered the Uni football beat. He knew the players & was familiar w/ the playbook so he sat there, binoculars in hand, & did a running commentary so the journos could write & then phone in their stories to the local/nat'l papers.

On 2nd Jan 1922, Tx A&M was in the biggest game of their lives against Centre College. Centre College was a powerhouse & for the first part of the game A&M was losing players to injury one after another. A&M's coach (Dana Bible) sent a runner to the press box & summoned Gill to the sidelines. He handed him a uniform & told him to be ready to go in because he might run out of players ^b/₄ the game ended. Gill stood beside Coach Bible for the rest of the game (a stunning 22-14 win by A&M). He was the only player left on the bench. He played not one play. But he stood ready for that tap on the shoulder. He was fully prepared to get in the game, to go from spectator to participant at a moment's notice. What does that have to do w/ anything?

From that day forward...every Tx A&M student @ every Tx A&M football game (as they are able) **stands** in the student section in living memory of Gill's readiness to get in the game @ the coach's call. I stood 4 seasons rain, shine, sleet & snow knowing full well I was unlikely to get that tap...but it was imbedded in our understanding: we were not just spectators but somehow participants in the on-field action...whether we stepped onto the field or not.

I don't have to offer up Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:14-15, 1 Peter 3:15 or 2 Tim 4:5...We know or should...we have, by baptism into the death/resurrection of Jesus Christ, received that tap on the shoulder & are in the game of sharing the work of Christ & the promise of his kingdom at every opportunity...and partnering with those who have opportunities we do not.

A few weeks back Stephen Gilmour shared how that happens in our partnership with Compassion Int. Today, Kate gives us a glimpse into how that ministry is carried out through our partnership with the Campus ministry at CSU.

Kate...

Gill's life at A&M did not end w/ that moment in 1922. He was a basketball player, but because he proved himself ready/willing to answer the coach's call, the next season he was offered a spot on the roster & played football as well as basketball... **AND** the baseball coach was so impressed he asked Gill to try out for baseball as well & he ended up being a 3-sport all-American player...something he never dreamed he would do. To get in the game changes who you are.

John's life changed when Jesus called him to his side & inducted him into the Father's mission to save a sinful world. And as he stands surrounded by the vision of heavenly glory he is transformed yet again when he is told:

"Go, take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea & on the land...Yes, take it & eat it," John must take God's word into his own life & then...**"You** must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, & kings." From spectator to participant w/ a message for the world: **"The** world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord & of his Christ, & he will reign forever & ever."

Christ is risen. He rules over all...and the Father is working even now through his church by his Spirit to gather the lost, strengthen the faithful & share boldly the gift of life & joy that last forever.

Let's close with this assurance...let's read together

**"We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty,
the one who is and who always was,
for now you have assumed your great power
and have begun to reign.**

Amen