

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29

Sermon May 22nd, 2022

Jesus Makes a Home with Us

Internet connectivity has become a connection we depend on for our wellbeing. We stay connected to our family, friends, and wider community through our preferred social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat (**Image**). We connect with our favorite movies and television programs through streaming services like Netflix or Sportsnet Now or Disney Plus. We listen to our favorite music on Spotify or YouTube. We connect with what is going on in the world through internet news sites and apps on our phones.

When we get disconnected from the internet, we feel disconnected from a lot of the things we like doing to destress. Wait a minute. Do you remember where we stashed the old record player and records? Do we still have those rabbit ears? Wait. I got it. I can go out to the car and listen to the radio.

When we get disconnected from our social media platforms, we feel left out of the loop. Many friends and family now post their milestones on these social media platforms instead of calling us up on that ancient technology we call the phone (**Image**), to tell us what is going on. To tell us the good news happening in their lives.

When we get disconnected from the internet, we feel disconnected from what is going on in the world. I don't know if I have the energy or the change to walk down to get a newspaper. Hopefully, they still make some prints. What \$2.50? I remember when a paper cost two bits.

When our internet is disconnected, we feel disconnected. Likewise, when we enter into a relationship with someone, we need to spend time with that person. We need to communicate with that person. We need to nurture the relationship. If we don't, we find ourselves feeling disconnected from that person. We start to grow apart. We start to question whether this is a relationship we want to invest time and energy into.

Like our internet connection, like our relationship connections, our faith connection matters. When we worship regularly. When we take time to pray. When we open up the Bible. When we participate in the ministries of the church. We feel connected to our faith. We feel God's presence in our lives. We feel more able to live out our calling as God's people.

And yet, sometimes life gets busy. Sometimes our pain is overwhelming. Sometimes we get caught up in things or relationships that are not good for us. Sometimes we get frustrated with all the garbage that is going on in the world (**Image**).

Sometimes we don't feel the motivation to participate in a ministry. Sometimes we get out of the habit of going to church. Sometimes we feel too discouraged to open up our Bibles. Sometimes we feel too angry or upset to pray.

When we find ourselves stepping away from the practices of our faith, we start to feel disconnected from God, from church, from Christ's message. We struggle to live out our calling as God's people. Loving God and neighbour.

Many of us have found ourselves standing in this place from time to time. It isn't easy to stay committed to something all the time. Sometimes the internet goes out. Sometimes a relationship loses its fervour. Sometimes our faith loses its saltiness.

In Jesus' last words to his disciples before his arrest, Jesus encourages them and us to dwell in his teachings. To dwell in God's word. To dwell in the good news of Jesus Christ.

When we dwell in God's word, we remember that God has made a home within us.

Jesus goes on to reassure us that we have been given an Advocate. The Holy Spirit. Who helps us stay connected with God. Who helps us dwell in God's word. Who helps us be Christ's hands and feet in this world. Healing and redeeming people in our community. Who helps us see that God has made a home within us.

The Holy Spirit is our advocate. The Holy Spirit works through many means to keep us connected to our faith. To Christ's message and ministry. For example, the Holy Spirit does this through people. Like a pastor or a friend or a family member who helps us see the value in attending worship (**Image**). In praying. In reading the Bible. In getting involved in the church. How many times has a person in our lives helped us stay connected with God's word? With Christ's ministry?

The Holy Spirit helps us stay connected to our faith through an event or a moment. Like a life changing event that challenges us to reflect on where God is present in our lives. Or a brief moment that seems to impact us in an unexplainable way.

The Holy Spirit helps us stay connected to our faith through worship (**Image**). Through the pastor's sermon or through the music we sing, or through communion. We come away feeling renewed. Feeling connected to God and to Christ's message. Ready to go out and be Christ's hands and feet in our community.

The Holy Spirit helps us stay connected to our faith through the body of Christ. Sometimes it is in our connection with other people in the church that keeps us

connected to our faith. That helps us stay connected with God and with Christ's message.

Jesus gives us an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, that reassures us that God has made a home within us so that we can live out the message Christ invites us to live out. Healing and redeeming the people we meet.

Let us pray, loving God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that helps us stay connected to you, and your Son's message. **Amen.**

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