



Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: abfboone.com/sermons
- Find Life Group resources: abfboone.org/groups/resources

Revelation 1:17-20

[17] When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, [18] and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. [19] Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. [20] As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Sermon Outline:

1. Jesus' Self-Description (17b-18)
2. Jesus' Recommission of John (19)
3. Jesus' Mystery Revealed (20)

Life Group Leader Notes:





•Pastor Scott referenced several stories in the gospels in which the disciples got a glimpse of Jesus' glory. Take a few minutes to read these stories and pay close attention to the disciples' response to Christ.

-Luke 5:8-11

-Matthew 8:23-27

-Mark 6:50-51

-Matthew 17:5-7

What was the common response from the disciples in each of these stories? How did Jesus respond to them?

•In Revelation 1:17, John fell down *as though dead*. Pastor Scott mentioned a quote from Michael Horton about the fear of God. Sometimes we tend to domesticate this term and redefine it as reverence and respect. But at the core, the "fear of God" means *fear*. Have you ever encountered Christ like John did? Have you ever been terrified in the presence of Christ?

•When John was on the ground, Jesus reached out and touched him with his right hand. His first words were comforting: "Fear not." Pastor Scott said that we often try to hear the voice of Jesus without having a proper vision of Jesus. But in this text, the terrifying vision of Christ came *before* the comforting words. Do you ever try to hear from Christ before taking the time to worship him? Why is this order important?

•Jesus told John that he was the *first* and the *last* and the *living one*. This was a reference to Isaiah 44:6, where God was comparing himself to the dead idols of the nations. They were powerless to save. Even though modern people do not worship dead, wooden idols, many people still give themselves to dead, worthless saviors (money, power, career, etc). How does Jesus compare with modern idols? Are modern idols all-encompassing (first & last)? Are they alive? Can they comfort terrified worshippers like Jesus comforted John?

•Jesus also told John that because he had died and risen again, he had the keys to Death and Hades. In other words, Jesus is sovereign over the power of death and the place of death. Does death ever feel unpredictable and chaotic to you? Are you scared of dying? Are you grieving the death of a loved one? How does it comfort you to know that Jesus holds the key to the power and place of death?

•In this apocalyptic vision, the churches are represented as *lampstands*. Why is it important for the church to shine the light of the gospel in a dark and dying world? How can we do this when the world persecutes us for living moral lives?

