

EMPTY, RUNNING ON 2

RUNNING ON EMPTY (2)

John 20:19-23, 29

Ft. McCoy, FL – June 18, 2017 (Father's Day)

HONOR to Pastor and Sister Bass

All the fathers in the house

All the saints, Bob & Reba Parrish, Bonnie Livingston

PRAY

INTRODUCTION:

I remember the first time I ever ran out of gas.

It was in Detroit, Michigan,

on the expressway, w/8 lanes of traffic –
flying – it seems – right past me.

I can still remember the despair,

the helplessness

& the fear I felt

as I sat half on, half off that expressway.

And that brings me to my message today.

I don't know what kind of week you've had;

in fact, I don't know what kind of month or
what kind of year you've had.

I don't know what your past has been like or
what dreams you dreamed
that have never come to pass.

BUT, if you have ever thought,
I don't know whether I can go on; or
I'm at the end of my rope; or
I'm sick & tired of getting up every morning
sick and tired –

IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT YOU
HAVE BEEN RUNNING ON EMPTY;
& what you need is for the GREAT SUPPLIER
to fill your tank to overflowing
with mind-blowing,
life changing,
faith expanding
JOY/BLESSINGS/POWER!

REMEMBER THIS –

**“God is able to do exceeding, abundantly, above
all you can ask or think.”**

He is mighty enough to fill your tank
so that you can leave here today singing,
“I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now!”

For, with His power,
we become mightier than
the enemy who opposes us. *(STOP.)*

I'd like to share 6 things
from the lives of the disciples
that relate to us God's mighty, tank-filling power.

I HE MEETS YOU WHERE YOU ARE

In our text, John 20:19-23, 29 –
The disciples were definitely running on empty.
They had watched Jesus die and
with His death – their dreams died.

But listen to vs. 19 –

**“It was late that Sunday evening.
The disciples / were gathered together /
behind locked doors
because / they were afraid of the authorities.
THEN JESUS CAME AND STOOD
AMONG THEM.”**

It's important for you to know –

When you're running on empty,
Jesus doesn't wait for you to come to Him,
He takes the initiative.

The point here is –
When the disciples were
emotionally spent,
drained dry of all hope,
bone tired, but could not sleep or rest –
their minds in total upheaval with
thousands of questions
but no answers to be found ---

AT THAT VERY MOMENT –
JESUS WALKS
INTO THAT **LOCKED ROOM!**

RIGHT NOW in this service,
You may feel that God is a million miles away;
But the fact is,
He's closer than your next breath.
He's here; He's near; and
He came to fill you with hope
beyond understanding

& He came to –

II HE GIVES YOU ENCOURAGEMENT

Notice the very first thing Jesus says to them in
v. 19

“Jesus said, ‘Peace be unto you.’”

Let’s put it in our Southern vernacular:

“Calm down you guys!

Chill out!

Take a deep breath and relax!

It’s going to be o.k.!

I’ve got everything under control!”

The first thing Jesus says to these men who were
defeated,
demoralized,
depressed,
discouraged, &
running on empty

IS – “PEACE BE UNTO YOU.

I’M HERE; & EVERYTHING’S
GONNA BE ALRIGHT!”

He didn't criticize them.
He didn't rebuke them.
He didn't scold them.
He didn't put them down.
He didn't correct or reprimand them.

He ENCOURAGED THEM!
& friend, that's exactly what he will do
for YOU today.

No matter what you've been through,
what you've done,
or where you've been –
He will ENCOURAGE YOU &
SPEAK PEACE TO YOUR HEART.

He doesn't put you down
for feeling bad,
or for bad feelings,
He simply says, "Let me help you."

& why does He do this? Because –

III HE SHOWS YOU HIS LOVE

Let's go back to that locked room where Jesus stands w/the disciples.

He shows them the nail prints in His hands; and
He shows them His side
where the centurion's spear had pierced Him.

First He was proving to them
that He was for real and He was alive;
and secondly He was saying,
“This is how much I love you.”

Now, **here** is the king of all questions:
**DID YOU KNOW OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN
THAT JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOU?**

In fact, if no one in this entire world would have
accepted Him as Savior – except YOU -
He still would have died on that rugged cross
just for YOU.

The greatest act of love ever shone on your behalf
was not shone
by your parents,
your wife,
your best friend,

or anyone else on planet earth.

It was Jesus!

And, because of His great love –

IV HE OFFERS YOU FORGIVENESS

You may not know it but –
the biggest leak
in your spiritual fuel supply is
GUILT.

It will drain you dry
both emotionally & physically;
because you cannot be guilty and happy
at the same time.

BUT, the answer is FORGIVENESS!

- #1 Forgive yourself
- #2 Forgive those who have wronged you
- #3 Allow Jesus and His forgiveness to fill
your spiritual tank
with joy and peace.

**&WHEN YOU GOT IT ON THE INSIDE
IT'S GONNA SHOW UP ON THE OUTSIDE!**

Now, you might ask the question –
“If I get it today, how do I keep it forever?”

V HE FILLS YOU WITH HIS PRESENCE!

v. 22

“Then Jesus breathed on them and He said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Jesus was saying to the disciples,
“I don’t just want to be with you,
I want to become a part of you!”

& by being filled with the Spirit,
you have the Third Person in the Trinity
living inside of you.

With that infilling comes
all the power at God’s command;
all the blessings;
and all the benefits.

When God takes up residence inside of you,
you become MORE
than you could ever have been without Him –

more alive,
more productive,
more gifted,
more powerful,
more you fill in the blank –
it's all there in HIS PRESENCE –
INSIDE OF YOU!

& w/all of that comes #6 –

**VI HE GIVES YOU A NEW REASON TO
LIVE!**

Too many times, when we're running on empty,
It's because we don't have
a set purpose in our lives.

We don't know why we're here.
We don't understand the circumstances surrounding
our every day life.

BUT, for each one of you,
God has a plan and a purpose.

A great example of this truth is found
right here in our Scripture text.

v. 21

“Jesus says again, ‘Peace be to you (*second time He has said it*). As the Father sent Me, I now send you.’”

He is simply saying,
“I know you were frightened and ran away.
I know you have been discouraged.
I know there have been
more questions than answers; BUT
I have a PLAN!
YOU AND I ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE
WORLD!”

NOW that they know there’s a PLAN,
then they have a purpose!

WHAT happened in that room
forever changed and transformed their lives.

Those who were once cowards
are now full of courage.

And those who were once empty
are now empowered;

and those who were once
deafeated and discouraged
and demoralized
are now daring.

They are full of boldness &
they are afraid of nothing and no one.

They are full of joy;
and they are not even the same people
who were there three days earlier.

They have seen THE CHRIST;
and He has filled them to overflowing
with His incredible power.

I came by this Sunday morning to tell you,
GOD CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU
BECAUSE, HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

If you have been discouraged, GOD HAS A PLAN.
If you need a Savior, GOD HAS A PLAN.
If you've been wondering what the future held,
GOD HAS A PLAN.

If you have been running on empty, GOD HAS A
PLAN.