

My Lord and My God John 20:19-31

vs. 19, It was evening on that first day of the week
Something new is about to happen!

Physical and emotional state of the disciples.

- Exhausted
- Confused
- Overwhelmed with grief and sadness
- Fearful

In this very moment Jesus stood among them.

“Peace be with you.”

John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don’t let your heart be troubled or fearful.

There are at least three levels of communication happening with these words of Jesus.

1. Customary greeting ("Shalom aleikhem" - peace be upon you)
2. Jesus speaks truth (a blessing) over the disciples. I am giving you peace!
3. The words of Jesus become deeply encouraging to John’s original audience, who are facing strong persecution.

vs. 20, Jesus shows them his wounds.

- Look, it really is me.
- I am the same Jesus who was crucified and is now raised from the dead.
- Jesus continues to have a resurrected body.

Take notice: We are seeing different examples of people embracing the truth of Jesus (life, death, and resurrection).

John - had not yet seen Jesus, but saw the condition of the tomb and believed.

Mary - moved from deep grief to joyous belief with the voice of Jesus speaking her name.

The other nine disciples - They hear and see the resurrected body of Jesus.

John 16:22 So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

vs. 21, Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.

What is the “new” that is happening?

What lies in front of you is a journey of peace, not a journey of fear.

This can only happen by the giving of the Spirit...

The mission of the church is to carry on Jesus’ mission.

John has been leading us up to this point in the narrative.

14:12 “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

15:26-27 “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father —the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. **27** You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

16:7-11 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: **9** About sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; **11** and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Remember: The Greatest Advocate of all Time is being sent.

The darkness will be exposed to the light in three ways.

1. The world is wrong concerning sin. The world's obsession with self is far greater than its willingness to listen to Jesus.
2. The world is wrong concerning justice. The world is arrogant in its ability to determine right and wrong. It is in fact not the judge. The triune God is the judge. Jesus has come to bring justice, to set the captives free... Jesus is the Messiah.
3. The world is wrong at who to blame. The world will react strongly against the community of Jesus (Contemplation, Communion, Active Mission). The evil that keeps humanity enslaved has been condemned. The power of sin and death has been broken.

vs. 22, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

3:8 The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

Jesus is creating a new humanity, a new creation.

vs. 23, If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

"Jesus' mission to Israel, reaching its climax in his death and resurrection, is thus to be implemented by the disciples' mission to the world. That's why they need the holy spirit: Jesus' breath, God's breath, to enable them to do the job they could otherwise never dream of doing." ~ NT Wright

We are given the ability to share the good news of forgiveness.

We too are given the humble task to warn the world that sin is serious and that if not dealt with it leads to death. (How is the darkness exposed?)

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. **16** To some we are an aroma of death leading to death, but to others, an aroma of life leading to life. Who is adequate for these things?

vs. 24-26, One more story of belief.

Notice all of the similarities.

- We've seen the Lord. But Thomas didn't believe them.
- Unless I touch the wounds of Jesus, I will never believe.
- A week later...Another Sunday, in a locked room, Jesus stood among them and says, "Peace be with you."

vs. 27-28,

Thomas - hears, sees, and touches the resurrected body of Jesus.

From disbelief to full acknowledgment and immediate worship of Jesus as God!

John's narrative has come full circle.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 20:28 "My Lord and my God!"

vs. 29, To those in the future who believe...

Blessed are those that without seeing the risen Lord with their own eyes, believe in him.

vs. 30-31, You too can believe and have life in his name.

A major point of John's gospel is that Jesus is the Messiah.

His life, death, and resurrection leaves no doubt - Jesus is God with us!

Question: No matter your physical or emotional state, how is Jesus standing among you? What needs to take place in every aspect of your life for you to be a person of peace? A person who is at peace? Blessed are the peacemakers... they will be called sons (children) of God. Do you understand your security and offer it to others?

How active are you in sharing the good news of forgiveness?

How loving are you to be a person who is actively warning others?

How is Jesus blessing you because of your belief?