



Our House

Our Mission

John 20:19-21

Week 31
August 10, 2025

LIFE LESSON:

The peace that Christ gives can carry us through any storm the world may throw at us.

I. V. 19

Our passage begins with the disciples gathered behind locked doors in the evening of the first day of the week. It had been a long and exciting day with the resurrection of Jesus that morning but had now led the disciples to being afraid of what was going to happen to them. It should be noticed that they are gathered on the first day of the week. This would from hence forth be the day that the church would traditionally gather to worship and celebrate the risen Savior. Acts 20:7 records Luke's writing, "On the first day of the week, we assembled to break bread. Paul spoke to them, and since he was about to depart the next day, he kept on talking until midnight." And I Corinthians 16: says, "On the first day of the week, each of you is to set something aside and save in keeping with how he is prospering, so that no collections will need to be made when I come." It was the first day of the week that was to be a reminder that Jesus had conquered death and made salvation possible for anyone who would call upon His name for the forgiveness of sins. But in the heart and minds of the disciples in our passage there is little celebration going on. They were people of fear and anxiety in not knowing what was going to happen.

It is specifically recorded that the door was locked to the room they were in, which is important to our narrative. In an instant, Jesus was standing before them with no mention of a knock on or an opening of the door. Jesus was seeable and touchable but also able to appear through closed doors which gives us an idea that

the resurrected body of Jesus, though physical, is also able to do what our physical bodies cannot do. Our Lord had appeared before the disciples to commission them to do His work but before the work was to be done, the worry had to be stifled. The appearance of the Lord before them was to bring peace to a troubling environment. Those who were worried about what was going to happen to them after their leader had been killed could now rest in the fact that death was defeated. I Corinthians 15:20-22 says, "But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man.²² For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive." Jesus had shown that there is nothing to fear since whatever persecution the followers faced was temporary and what Jesus offered was life everlasting.

Being in the presence of Jesus calls for peace even though it may not always be our first response. Jesus says "Peace be with you" three times in the gospel of John after His resurrection. He had demonstrated during His life that He could bring peace during a natural storm and now He offers it in an emotional and spiritual storm as well. Only in the presence of the Lord can we find true peace for those who belong to Him by knowing that He loves us and wants to display our good for His glory. Romans 8:28 says, "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." In our limited understanding of what little we know about circumstances, the One Who knows all says "peace." The fear of the disciples was aimed at the Jews who had set Jesus up to be crucified. Those who had falsely claimed to represent God was causing fear in the hearts of those who now were in the literal presence of God Himself in the flesh. What could any man do to them that could minimize the power and peace that Christ brought to them. Romans 8:31 reads, "What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"

II. V. 20

Jesus not only appeared to them, but He also showed His wounds to them. John is the only gospel that records Jesus showing His side wounds to the disciples. The walking through the locked door could have caused the followers to think it was a ghost standing before them,

but by seeing the scars they knew that it was the same Savior that had died only three days earlier. The scars of Jesus will be an eternal reminder that our eternal life was and is made possible only by the death of Jesus. It is not based on any work of our own, only the finished work on the cross.

So, will Jesus have the scars in Heaven? The Biblical answer is yes. First, in our passage it is the scars that convince the disciples that Jesus is who He says He is. There was no room for doubt any longer once they saw the nail pierced hands and feet and the spear pierced side of Jesus. John also writes about the scars in Revelation. In Revelation 5:6 John writes, "Then I saw one like a slaughtered lamb standing in the midst of the throne..." This indicates that the scars from His death were still on Him even in the future state of Heaven the John was recording. Scars may seem to be a bad thing to see in heaven, but since He has the scars of pain we don't have to. What those scars represent will be what takes the fear from the disciples and replaces it with peace. Leon Morris comments on verse 20b this way; "So" indicates that it was on account of what Jesus had done that they rejoiced. Their fear gave way to joy as they were struck by the realization that it was no ghost that was standing there, but that very Jesus who had suffered on the cross so recently. There was no longer any doubting that Jesus was alive. Nor was it possible to doubt that it was the very same person who had suffered on the cross. The wounds proved this. There was joy in that room" (Pg. 708).

III. V. 21

Again, Jesus says, "peace be with you" in verse twenty-one immediately before commissioning them to go as He had gone. This supernatural peace that can only come from God was going to be needed for the mission Jesus' disciples would be sent on. The mission will not always be an easy one. Jesus said in Matthew 10:16 "Look, I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves." It is dangerous work at times to confront the forces of Satan and a world system that doesn't want to follow the will of God and confront their sin. The disciples will face many horrible persecutions because of witnessing the risen Savior. John 15:18 says, "If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- 1. How does your attitude toward the doctrine of the resurrection impact the way you face life?**
- 2. How do you handle it when there seems to be no peace in your life?**
- 3. Does your love for the resurrected Savior override your fear of man's response to your Christian life?**
- 4. Are you ready to carry on the greatest work of all time by carrying out the work of the gospel that Jesus came to bring?**

hated you.” The world does not have Jesus to slap around so they will go after those who follow Him and teach what He taught.

The commission rises out of the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead. The hope that Jesus brought to those disciples has been passed down to us and now we are to carry it to others. The death and resurrection of Jesus will always be at the heart of the Christian message. Because of our confidence in what Jesus has done, we too can go out in the same way that He was sent by the Father. The fact that Jesus had been sent by the Father has been a reoccurring theme throughout the gospels. The life of Jesus had a purpose and direction given to Him by God. It is that same sending that you and I have if we are followers of Jesus. Our lives have purpose and direction that comes from outside our own selves and invade our desires. Now we are sent by the “I Am” the very resurrected Lord Himself. Our goal is to carry out the work of the Kingdom of God and having that at the forefront of our minds.

In this commission we can find peace. The peace that Jesus offers goes far beyond the expulsion of fearing men. The peace Jesus offers allows us the opportunity to be at peace with the only One that really matters. Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Because of the cross and resurrection, we do not have to be enemies of God any longer. The enmity between God and the world can be erased when we place our faith in Christ alone for salvation. It is that message of hope that Jesus came to bring and now it is our turn to carry that same message to a world that is in desperate need of its saving power.

COMMENTARY USED:

Morris, Leon. 1988. *Expository Reflections on the Gospel of John*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House.