

Pastor Jim Jackson, 9/20/26
Days With Jesus, Day 61—A Room of Fear To a Room of Faith
John 20:19-31

The disciples gather in FEAR

With Jesus' execution happening three days ago, the disciples are confused and scared, so they congregate to discuss their future. As followers of a man who died as a false Messiah and heretic to the Jews and insurrectionist to Rome, the disciples know they're likely next. *Sometimes moments of fear set the stage for mountains of faith!* As everything happened so quickly, they may have been planning how to disband or what to do next with their lives. Moments of doubt and stress expose everyone's level of maturity and faith. *When you are confused, lean into the God who isn't* (Prov. 3:5, 6)!

Jesus materializes in the FLESH

On Sunday evening, while the disciples were eating, Jesus appears inside the locked room and stands among them. Into their fear of death, Jesus speaks life saying, "Peace be with you." Peace is what they need and what Jesus brings. *Know Jesus, know peace; no Jesus, no peace* (John 14:27)! To prove he isn't a ghost or they're having a group hallucination, he eats fish, they hear him and touch his body. *With God, the hardest moments can give way to the greatest rewards!* After the shock and overwhelming emotion of seeing their rabbi alive again, they are given a new mission. As they followed him during his ministry, they're to continue after his resurrection. They are to be his Apostles ('sent ones') going in his power and authority with the presence of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18, 19). *A new life brings about a new mission* (2 Cor. 5:17, 18)!

Thomas proclaims his FIDELITY

Thomas, who wasn't present at dinner, is skeptical when he hears the others have seen Jesus. Thomas is a pragmatist who was willing to die for Jesus earlier but won't believe wishful thinking or 'ghost stories' now (John 11:16). *Sometimes those hardest to reach, can turn into those strongest in faith!* The next Sunday, Jesus arrives at dinner again and lets Thomas put his hands in his wounds. In response, Thomas gives the ultimate response of belief and affirms the dual natures of Jesus—"My Lord (*Kyrios*—Master; 100% temporary man) and my God (*Theos*; 100% eternal God)." After this declaration, John gives the purpose for his book—hear and believe. *Believe the truth and it will set you free* (John 8:31, 32)!