

RAISED for More: Peace Be With You
Acts 5:29-42; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

Jesus wasn't raised for Easter _____, eggs, and baskets; nor to prove "My God can _____ up your god." Nor so we could _____ behind locked doors, on our own turf, in _____ and security.

Jesus was raised to (among other things) give us _____. We sure could use it...in the world (_____), in our country (_____), in our homes, in our hearts. A sinful, broken world lacks peace..

But peace has a _____. Peace at _____ cost is not good. Peace cannot truly be won at the expense of _____ nor at the expense of our souls. That is a **false** peace that will ultimately crash head on with reality.

The peace we really need is the kind of peace that only _____ can give, a peace he won at great cost to _____; not at the expense of truth, but a peace _____ by truth.

Jesus appeared to people that clearly _____ peace. They were _____, hiding behind locked doors. They carried guilt and shame. They were trapped in paralysis unable to fulfill their _____.

How is a lack of peace showing up in your life? _____

In the midst of fear, guilt, _____, and paralysis, Jesus shows up and says "*Peace be with you.*"

By his very _____, Jesus is offering them forgiveness. He's basically saying, "I don't hold your sins against you. You deserted me, but I will not desert you. Ever. Period. Even if it costs me _____." Forgiveness is peace: no _____ with God; no guilt or shame; no frenzy to pay for sin ourselves.

If we are forgiven, we have no need to prove ourselves or hold anything over others. We can _____!

Forgiveness is also about _____. It means it's not "no big deal." A _____ wrong was done and payment must be made. Jesus paid it all. It is _____.

Jesus also offered peace by demonstrating the truth of his _____. "*When he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.*" A sure and certain victory is peace. Truth brings peace. Nothing can _____ us!

There's no reason to "play it safe" or fail to attempt hard things. Peace empowers the _____ and _____ God has for us. Consider Thomas, who, equipped with the peace of Jesus crossed continents, language and cultural barriers, and willingly laid down his life rather than stop witnessing to Christ.

Where is guilt, shame, fear, and conflict keeping you from peace?

Where does false peace keep you from the fullness of peace offered by Christ?

How is Jesus offering you peace today? Through forgiveness? His victory?

How is he offering you peace through a new appreciation of the truth?

How is he empowering you and leading you in mission with this peace?

What are you going to DO about it?