



# Because They Were Afraid

APRIL 8, 2018

WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

# Unity Has Power In The Unseen Realms

▶ **Matthew 18:19** NLT

“I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you.”

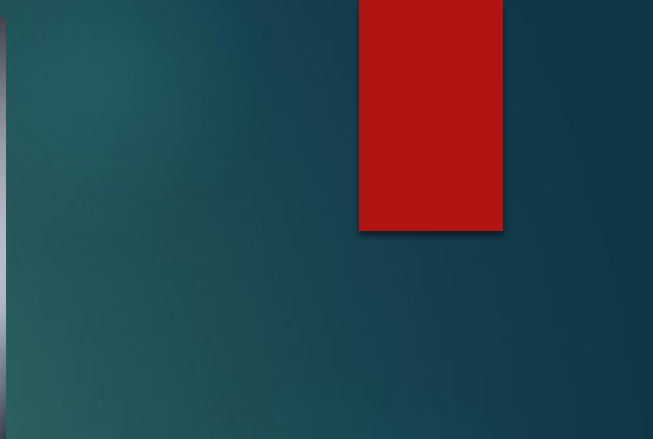
- ▶ When we pray in agreement, there's a supernatural transaction; Jesus tells us that unity-prayer is a higher form of communication

# Unity Has Power In The Unseen Realms

- ▶ But not all unity is healthy unity; sometimes unity has power in the unseen realms that threatens our well-being
- ▶ John 20:19-23
- ▶ The disciples had unity; theirs was a unity of fear: “That evening the disciples gathered together. And because they were afraid...” (v. 19)



Synagogues and Jewish schools across France are regularly guarded by police officers and soldiers.



# The Enemy Enjoys Seeing Us in Fear

▶ **Proverbs 3:25** NASB

“Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes.”

- ▶ Fear kills joy, which is our strength, for fear is a great trickster, making what is real seem unreal and making the unreal seem real

# The Antidote: Peace

- ▶ Perhaps because the spirit of fear is so hard to subdue, Jesus commands this blessing twice: “Peace to you!”
- ▶ **John 14:27** PASSION  
“I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don’t yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!”

# The Antidote: Peace

▶ **John 16:33** PASSION

“And everything I’ve taught you is so that the peace which is in me will be in you and will give you great confidence as you rest in me. For in this unbelieving world you will experience trouble and sorrows, but you must be courageous, for I have conquered the world!”



# The Practical Power of Peace

- ▶ It allows us to flourish in the midst of our enemies and in the middle of chaos and trouble
- ▶ Psalm 23:4-5 announces this reality

# Romans 16:20

- ▶ “The God of Peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” NIV
- ▶ “And the God of peace will swiftly pound Satan to a pulp under your feet! And the wonderful favor of our Lord Jesus will surround you.” PASSION
- ▶ Translator’s note: “The Greek word SUNTRIBO means ‘to beat up someone to a jelly’ (or pulp)”

# Peace Is Our Ministry, Too

▶ **John 20:21b** PASSION

And he told them, “Just as the Father has sent me, I’m now sending you.”

▶ **John 14:12** HCSB

“I assure 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.”

# Peace Is Our Ministry, Too

- ▶ Peace destroys false alliances and fearful unity, and in their place leaves a deposit of life-giving unity
- ▶ **Matthew 10:12** PASSION  
“Once you enter a house, speak to the family there and say, ‘God’s blessing of peace be upon this house!’”
- ▶ **James 3:18a** NLT  
“And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace...”