
"On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

I. The Second Appearance (vv.19-21a)

- a. *On the evening of that day* the horror of Jesus death still hovered in the air. The memory of the blood thirsty cries to crucify Jesus caused the disciples to seek refuge. They could be next.
 1. *The disciples* included the ten apostles (Thomas was not present) and others. (Luke 24:33)
 2. Mary, Peter, and John told the other disciples that Jesus was not in the tomb. What's next?
- b. The disciples were afraid (understandably), and they took precautions. Now Jesus came and stood among them. *He did not come through the door*. What is the point of mentioning the shut door?
- c. On Easter evening Jesus declared, *Peace (Shalom) be with you*. This "*Shalom*" is the complement of "It is finished!" For the *peace* of reconciliation and the hope of eternal is now visible.
- d. This was no ghost or apparition. Jesus showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord (v.20). Joy is the basic mood of Easter.
- e. The resurrection appearances. (1 Cor 15:1-8) The resurrection appearances in all their variety are very strong evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.

II. The Sent One Sends (vv. 21b-23)

- a. As Jesus was defined by the mission of the Father, so the church is defined by its mission to the world. (John 3:17; 1 John 4:13-14)
- b. The degree to which believers and churches are committed to mission, both locally and throughout the world, will be a measure of how God-like (or how godly) they are.
- c. Jesus seeks to rally the troops for the mission is important. (illus. a flag, a battle cry, common idea, a person)
- d. The mission of God has two phases: 1) the Son is sent into the world; 2) the Son in His risen life remains in our midst as we go forth for Him into the world!
 1. The apostles were commissioned to carry on Christ's work, and not to begin a new one.
 2. The church points people to the mission of Christ, Jesus saves!
- e. We fulfill the mission under the authority of the Sender. In Hebrew culture the *šālīḥ* or messenger embodied dignity and authority. (e.g. Ambassador)
- f. *Receive the Holy Spirit*. The true coming of the outpoured Spirit took place at Pentecost. It was only after the Acts 2 experience that any change came over the apostles.
- g. This receiving of the Spirit was in anticipation of the day of Pentecost (50 days later).
 1. It should be understood as a partial limited gift of knowledge, understanding, and empowerment until Pentecost.
- h. Nothing less than the power which brought Jesus through death and resurrection to the right hand of the Father is the power which is made available to the church in its mission.
- i. *Forgiving sins or withholding forgiveness* (v.23). This sounds harsh, but it is simply the result of the preaching of the gospel, which either brings people to repent or left in their sins.

III. Practical Application

- a. Here is the paradox of Christian ministry: we find freedom as we submit to Christ; we bring life to others as we give up our own; we have authority and power in the measure to which we are willing to become helpless.
- b. We are most like Christ when we are on mission. Let us all remember the mission!