

“Come and See: Encounters with the Risen Jesus” (2)

“Peace to Your House”

John 20:19–23

Introduction: We all know what it is to live with *closed doors*—some are physical, many are emotional.

Jesus offers a peace that moves us from panic to purpose.

I. The prison of fear: (John 20:19a)

A. The time – “the same day at evening...the first day of the week”

- Resurrection has happened, but fear remains.

B. The tension – “for fear of the Jews”

- Fear of persecution and uncertainty.

C. The tactics – “the doors were shut”

- Isolation, hiding, self-protection.
- Where is your “locked room”?
- Fear can turn a safe place into a prison.

II. The peace of Christ: (John 20:19b–20)

A. His presence overcomes barriers

1. John wants us to see the image – the disciples were locked in – the rest of the world was locked out.
2. “Jesus came and stood in the midst” speaking peace to their fear. (v.19) No door can keep Him out.

Joni Eareckson Tada “...when we are locked in the dark room of fear and see no entrance for God, the risen Christ is not limited by human doors—there is still a “hidden door of hope.”

B. His pronouncement replaces shame

1. **Jesus first words to His disciples** -“Peace be with you” (v.19)
2. **Not rebuke, but blessing.**

Wiersbe says Jesus could have rebuked them for cowardice but did not; the cross-work is peace.

The offer of Jesus peace is rooted in the Hebrew *shalom* idea of wholeness and well-being, not simply the absence of conflict.

Barclay notes it means more than be “saved from trouble,” pointing toward God’s comprehensive blessing.

A. Carson: “In John’s theology this greeting carries heavier freight—“this side of the cross,” peace with God is opened.

3. This ties directly to Jesus’ earlier promise: *John 14:27* – “My peace I give to you.”

C. His proof anchors peace in the wounds

1. “**He showed them His hands and His side**” (v.20)

Wiersbe: His scars proved the price for salvation was paid so we may have “peace with God.”

2. *Romans 5:1* – “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

D. Their Joy Follows His Peace

1. “**The disciples were glad**” (v.20) - Fear didn’t vanish because circumstances changed; fear was lifted because Jesus was present.

2. *John 16:33* – “In Me you may have peace...”

III. The purpose of the church (John 20:21–22)

A. Peace before purpose - Notice the order - “Peace be with you...as the Father has sent Me...” (v.21) Jesus was saying “You are My representatives now”

B. Sent with commission

- *John 17:18* – “I also have sent them into the world.”
- *2 Corinthians 5:20* – “We are ambassadors for Christ.”
- *Matthew 28:16–20; Luke 24:47–49*

C. Empowered by the Spirit

- “Receive the Holy Spirit” (v.22)
- *Genesis 2:7* (breath imagery)
- *Acts 1:8* – Power to be witnesses

Peace doesn’t make you passive—it makes you purposeful.

IV. The pardon of the gospel (John 20:23)

A. Proclaimed, not produced Only God forgives (cf. *Mark 2:7*)

- *Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38–39*

B. Peace spreads through pardon

- *2 Corinthians 5:18–20* – Ministry of reconciliation
- *Luke 24:46–49*

C. Personal application

- **Inside:** Are you withholding forgiveness?
- **Outside:** Are you withholding the gospel?

Gospel Foundation:

- *Romans 5:1* – Peace with God
- *Ephesians 2:14* – “He Himself is our peace”
- *1 John 1:9* – Forgiveness through confession

Jesus doesn’t wait for you to open the door—He enters, brings peace, and sends you with purpose.