

“Peace Be With You”

(Series: CrossWords; Message Eight; Easter 2019)

John 20:19-23

A. And so the Church of Jesus Christ began - behind locked doors

1. Jesus met his disciples and gave them his peace and his mission
2. A Great Miracle requires a Great Mission

THE GREAT MEETING (20:19)

A. They didn't know what to do, so they came back to huddle together...

1. Things haven't changed much in two thousand years
2. What will it take to unlock the upper room doors?

B. 20:19c - “Jesus came and stood in the middle of them: “Peace be with you”

1. Jesus takes his rightful place - in the middle of them (where he needs to be)
2. Jesus says, “*Shalom lechem*” (“Peace be yours”)

C. It was a moment they'd never forget; a story they'd never cease to tell

THE GREAT REALITY (20:20)

A. 20:20a - “Jesus showed them his hands and his side”

1. Jesus provides palpable, empirical, physical, undeniable evidence
2. Jesus has been historically, literally, bodily raised from the dead

B. 20:20b - “*The disciples were absolutely ecstatic; they were focused on the Lord*”

1. This is one of those too good to be true moments your only dream about
2. No wonder they were always in the temple praising God (Luke 24:53)

C. What unlocked the door of this room and the door of their heart?

1. Simple: They encountered Jesus...risen and alive
2. Their sins/betrayal collided with the Savior and their Savior won

“If the resurrection of Jesus actually happened, nothing else really matters. If the resurrection of Jesus did not actually happen, then nothing else really matters!”
(Jaroslav Pelikan)

THE GREAT MISSION (20:21)

A. 20:21 - “*Just as the Father has sent me, so now I am sending you too!*”

1. If Jesus' resurrection is true, then that important reality must be shared

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one-and-only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16)

2. These two simple words (four in English) create a world-wide movement

B. This is one scene they'll never forget - the betrayed one came back to his betrayers to offer them his peace and send them out into the world

THE GREAT GIFT (20:22)

A. Representing Christ in the world is an immense responsibility

“The only way they could have missed receiving Jesus' gift is if they would have ducked when Jesus breathed on them” (Frederick Bruner)

B. This resurrection insufflation reminds the Bible reader of creation

“God formed man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7)

“A new heart I will give you, and a new Spirit I will put within you...you shall be my people, and I will be your God.” (Ezekiel 36:26f)

C. The Risen Christ has just given his disciples the gift of his resurrection, his presence, his peace, his mission of representation, and the Holy Spirit

THE GREAT PRIVILEGE (20:23)

A. 20:23 - “*Whoever's sins you forgive, they have been forgiven...*”

1. God gave the gift of forgiving to his Son (Mark 2:1-12); now the Son gives this God-given gift to his disciples
2. Jesus gives this privilege to these disciples and to his church

B. Do you remember your first encounter with Jesus?

1. There is a direct correlation between remembering our encounter(s) with Jesus and the effectiveness of our mission

“Remember Jesus Christ...raised from the dead, a descendant of David. This is my gospel...” (2 Timothy 2:8)

2. Are you still in love with Jesus?

- a. Come stand before him again (or)
- b. Go to your “upper room” and wait until he comes; he will
- c. Don't miss the resurrected Savior; embrace his peace