



The Changes After
the Resurrection
Jn. 20:19-22

Jn. 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where **the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews**, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

22 And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

Introduction

This morning we will once again observe the disciples. In our passage we find that they are cowardly hiding, “the doors were shut where **the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews.**” Compare the disciples with many today who are reacting to the Coronavirus:

- Fearfulness...

- leads to seclusion: Let's run away from the challenge.

F.E.A.R.

Forget Everything And Run

F.E.A.R.

Face Everything And Rise

- leads to confusion: What do we do now? When do things get back to normal?
- leads to delusion: The danger is everywhere. There is no hope. Where is God? Why would God allow this to happen?

- Perhaps the disciples had similar thoughts. Consider Thomas:

Jn. 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, **Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.**

- The disciples had spent over three years in close fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ, yet they are fearful, confused, discouraged, and...**inactive**.
- Too often, like during the present pandemic, we, too, are fearful, confused, discourage, and...**inactive**.

In a few days after the private meeting of the first church, the disciples do a “180°” – transforming from spiritual weaklings to become spiritual warriors – from fearful to fearless. What happened? This morning we will examine the Scriptures to see what caused...

The Changes After the Resurrection

I. The Reality of Evasion, 20:19

Jn. 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where **the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews**, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace *be* unto you.**

A. Facing the Fears “...the disciples were assembled **for fear of the Jews...**”

- Having fears, unfortunately, is a common trait shared by many.

Psa. 56:3 **What time I am afraid**, I will trust in thee. ...

11 In God have I put my trust: **I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.**

- Hiding from our fears delays our opportunity to overcome them.

Heb. 11:23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw *he was* a proper child; and **they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**

1 Pet. 3:14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy *are ye*: and **be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;**

B. Finding the Faith – “...came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace *be* unto you.**”

- The storms of life may surround us, but when we know our Great Shepherd is with us, we hear His voice that speaks peace to our souls.
- When the disciples heard the words “Peace *be* unto you,” they knew they had heard them before:

Mt. 14:26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, **they were troubled**, saying, It is a spirit; and **they cried out for fear**.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.**

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But **when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid**; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And **immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

- The disciples began to have peace as soon as they realized their Shepherd was there.

Jn. 10:3 To him the porter openeth; and **the sheep hear his voice**: and **he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.**

4 And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for **they know his voice.**

5 And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. ...

14 **I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.**

II. The Revelation for Encouragement, 20:20

Jn. 20:20 And when he had so said, **he shewed unto them *his hands and his side***. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

A. The Verification for Encouragement – “...he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side...”

B. The Veneration for their Elation – “...Then were **the disciples glad**, when they saw the Lord.”

Jn. 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

1 Jn. 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

- The pandemic inspired isolation has created many fears, anxieties, frustrations, which may be overcome when we know that **the Lord promised to never leave us nor forsake us!**

III. The Responsibility for Evangelism, 20:21

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, **Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

A. The Solution for Fear is to Refocus – Get back to business! “...as my Father hath sent me, **even so send I you.**”

B. The Suspension = Fruitless Results – isolation may lead to indifference

1 Kings 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; **but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:**

12 And **after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.**

13 And it was so, **when Elijah heard it**, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, *there came* a voice unto him, and said, **What doest thou here, Elijah?**

- “*The opposite of love is not hate; it's indifference.*” Elie Wiesel
- The Coronavirus pandemic must not hinder our involvement in world evangelism!
- We must get back to our Father’s business!

IV. The Resource for Empowerment, 20:22

Jn. 20:22 And when he had said this, **he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**

A. The Provision for Accomplishment – “...he breathed on *them*...”

- The Lord gave the first church a “commission” and then the “capability” to do it.
- When the Creator breathed on Adam, he became a living soul. When He breathed on the first church, they became a living body of Christ.

B. The Person for Achievement – “...Receive ye the Holy Ghost:”

- Why did the disciples go from fear to flaming evangelists, fearless to proclaim the Gospel?
- The empowering is related to the Person of the Holy Spirit – “...Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit was accompanied later the empowering at Pentecost.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but **tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Acts 1:8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- The pandemic has caused many to be paranoid, fearful and confused.
- The same God that turned the disciples around, from hiding to heralding the Gospel, is the same Lord that can do the same for us.

2 Tim. 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear**; but of **power**, and of **love**, and of a **sound mind**.

Heb. 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for **he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***

6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

Conclusion

Phil. 4:6 **Be careful for nothing**; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And **the peace of God**, which passeth all understanding, **shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine **own understanding.**

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**