

Who is Jesus?: Peace-Giver Pt.1

John 20:19-23

Introduction

Peace Enters In (vv.19-20)

- The Day of Dread
 - Disciples were full of dread & terror (the antithesis of reverential fear in worship).
- The Appearing of the Dead
 - No barrier between the peace Christ gives and those to whom He'll give His peace (John 10) – How He did it, doesn't matter.
 - First message / gift given to His disciples: He proclaims "peace" (eirene) on them
 - Conventional greeting
 - Accomplished meaning (not social justice)
 - Calming Fears
 - Reconciling
 - **Rom.5:1**
 - **Col.1:19-20**
 - "When he said this" - John makes clear in **v.20** that Christ showing them His scars immediately follows His greeting of peace – Proving He was real!
 - **Isa.53:5a**
 - **Rev.5:6a**
 - **Heb.7:23-25**
 - The Person of Peace is the Giver of Peace (only source)
- The Day of Dread to the Day of Delight
 - This would be the "Lord's Day" in the early church

- How appropriate it is that on the first day it is not in the company of one another that they find solace.
- Together they are frightened...until Christ walked in!

- True disciples find satisfying joy in the presence of the Prince of Peace
 - **John 14:18-19**
 - **John 16:20-22**

- **Application:** Pray that you'll see Christ, regardless of your circumstances
 - What / who could you see that would cause you so much fear that seeing Christ wouldn't dispel that fear?
 - For the believer, He is near!
 - Look to Him and hear His Word, the Scriptures!
 - Look to Him and cry out to Him in prayer!

Peace Prepares and Sends (vv.21-22)

- 2nd time peace (reinforcing the main point of this section)
- Sent one
 - *Apostello* (Sent for a purpose)
 - Rooted in the Authority of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian salvation, peace & power)
- Sent ones
 - *Pempo* (still sent, but related more strongly to the cause of being sent; lit. causing one to carry out a particular purpose)
 - Both of these put the emphasis on Christ as the initiator

- The reason that Christ was sent is the purpose of the disciples being sent – Christ came and accomplished what they (we) will proclaim
 - Empowered by the Spirit
 - “And when he said this” – he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”
 - “Receive” means to take with the intention of taking away – reiterates that the Spirit is given to His disciples in order for them to be empowered to live as the sent ones while they are on this earth
 - This appears most likely to be a pledge of what’s to come at Pentecost, but could be a partial endowment. The order and priority of the gospel of forgiveness is very important
 - **John 20:26**
 - **Matt. 28:18-20**
 - **Acts 1:8**
 - Priority of the Gospel in all the expressions of power of the Holy Spirit
 - No warrant for saying there are two blessings for all believers everywhere
 - **Application:** Do you see? If you’ve seen Him and are glad, you cannot see and sit! You are being sent!
 - College Students (not just those graduating, but freshmen, sophomores, juniors...)
 - Those trying to retire early...for what?
 - Stay-at-home mom
 - Salesperson on the road week in and week out
 - You may work, sell, study and invest in much of your own strength with great courage, but why with the Holy Spirit dwelling in you are you afraid to share the Gospel? God help us!
- “they are forgiven” (perfect tense) – perfectly accomplished and still being done
 - Accomplished only by the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Those who Reject Christ will Not be Forgiven
 - “they are withheld” (perfect tense)
 - **Matthew 16:19**
 - The World Hates this Proclamation...The Sheep Love it!
 - That forgiveness is needed at all
 - Only God (if He exists at all) can do such a thing (**Mark 2:1-12**)
 - **1 John 1:8-10**
 - **John 10:24-28**
 - Ultimately, peace is the message of the Gospel we entrusted with
 - **2 Cor.5:17-21**

Peace Proclaims (v.23)

- Peace is Rooted in Forgiveness