

# EASTER SUNDAY 2020

*His "Peace be with You"*

Over the Years I've Chosen Many Easter Passages to Preach On:

- Mary Magdalene in the Garden
- The Thief on the Cross
- The Roman Centurion
- The Two on the Road to Emmaus
- Peter & John's Race to the Tomb
- The Angels at the Empty Tomb

This year I was drawn to a passage of which, until now, I had never really seen the deeper meaning.

## John 20:19-22

<sup>19</sup>That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! **"Peace be with you,"** he said. <sup>20</sup>As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup>**Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."** <sup>22</sup>**Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."**

- They were behind locked doors because **they were afraid...**

**"Peace be with You"**

- **He showed them the wounds** in His hands and side.

**"Peace be with You"**

- "As the Father has sent me, so **I am sending you.**"

**He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit"**

## Jesus' Focus on This Before and After

### John 16:31-33

<sup>31</sup>Jesus asked, "Do you finally believe?" <sup>32</sup>But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>**I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."**

## *Shalom* – Not Like the World's Version of Peace

### John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; My **peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.** Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

The Biblical concept of Peace is encompassed in the word *Shalom*.

- It doesn't mean, "I hope nothing bad happens to you."
- Instead it means, "I hope you experience the highest good."

Most of the world doesn't understand Peace as a positive concept.

- They understand Peace as primarily the absence of trouble.
- We think of a cabin in the woods, or a walk on the beach...
  - Away from the noise and anxieties of everyday life

But the biblical concept of Peace does not focus on the absence of trouble.

- In fact, it has **nothing to do with circumstances** at all.
- It is an **inner goodness that is untouchable by trouble, danger, or sorrow**.
- Peace again, is **not just a defense**, but an **overruling power** that enables its bearer to calm in the wildest storm – to sing in the middle of suffering.
- It is an **aggressor not a victim** against circumstances that threaten.
  - A Peace that **deals with the past** and neutralizes the poison of torturous thoughts of guilt, shame, etc.
  - It **guards and directs the present** with no gnawing desires to distract or confuse
  - A Peace that **enthusiastically looks forward to an unknown future** with expectations of good things...

## “My Peace I Give to You”

John 14:27

**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**

*"My peace I give to you." Notice He says, "My peace." Here is the key... it is His own personal peace. It is the same deep, rich peace that stilled His heart in the midst of mockers, haters, murderers, traitors, and everything else He faced. He had a calm about Him that was unnatural and nonhuman. In the midst of incomprehensible resistance and persecution, Jesus was calm and unfaltering; He was a rock. – John MacArthur*

2 Thess. 3:16

**Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation.**

Colossians 3:15 **Let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.**

- (Rule) **Arbitrator**: “one who settles a dispute and/or has absolute authority on a matter”
  - Decision Maker; Guidance & Direction
  - Not circumstances, logic, self-interest, anxiety, safety, or security

Jesus’s Resurrection Words in John 20:19-22 Have So Much Application for You & Me Today:

- Like the Disciples, holed up in a room **afraid**...circumstances threaten

**“Peace be with You”**

- When you find yourself **wounded, hurting, struggling with loss...more to come...**

**“Peace be with You”**

- Again, when you hear His call, **I send you into the dangerous, rejecting, hate-filled world...**

**He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”**

*“There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared. It is itself the great venture and can never be safe. Peace is the opposite of security... Peace means giving oneself completely to God's commandment. Wanting no security, but in faith and obedience laying the destiny of the nations in the hand of almighty God. Not trying to direct it for selfish purposes. Battles are won not with weapons, but with God. They are won when the way leads to the cross.”*

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer