

## Behind Closed Doors

**John 20:19-22**

**Mark 16:14-18**

**Matthew 28:11-15**

**Luke 24:36-43**

**Read John 20:19-22**

### **I. Embrace His Peace**

#### **• Read verse 19, “Peace be unto you.”**

- The word “fear,” in Greek, means to be “alarmed, frightened and in terror.” It carries with it the idea of “flight.” Maybe they were planning how to escape from Jerusalem without being seen.
- We’ve been going through this coronavirus crisis, fear and anxiety are at an all-time high. Some of us are struggling to sleep while others are experiencing panic attacks. Many of us want to escape.

Barna Research are doing a Covid 19 study and finding that people are running to vices to deal with the virus.

- Alcohol sales are up 55%
  - Marijuana use increase
  - Binge eating, less exercise
  - Domestic violence is skyrocketing
  - Binge watching of shows/video game playing, rather than increased book reading
  - Social media negativity is at an all-time high. (interactions between users)
  - In the midst of their high anxiety, Jesus suddenly stood among them and said, “Peace be unto you!”
- a. Peace with God – personally (Romans 5:1)**
  - b. Peace with God –internally (Philippians 4:6-7; John 14:27)**
  - c. Peace with others – (Matthew 5:9; John 16:33)**
  - d. Peace with myself – my past, (Ps. 103:12); my future (Ps. 30:5)**

“Peace does not come from your distance from trouble, but rather from the nearness of your Savior!”

“When in dread, remember Jesus rose from the dead; He will come near when we are quarantined with fear!”

### **II. Engage in His Purpose**

- **Read verse 21, “Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”**
- The disciples are given a message that cannot be kept in a locked room. Likewise, we can’t get too comfortable within the walls of a church building or our own homes or apartments.
- The first use of the word “peace” in verse 19 was to quiet their hearts. The second “peace” was given to prepare them for a fresh statement of their purpose as initially given in **John 17:18: “As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.”**

### III. Embody His Presence

- Are you feeling tired and overwhelmed? Me, too.
- That's why these next words in **John 20:22** are so important, (Read)
- Jesus not only commissions us, He gives us the Holy Spirit as our companion so we can embody His presence and do the job He has for us to do. We have an assignment and we've been empowered to accomplish it.
- Just as God's breath made the first creation, so likewise the breath of Jesus makes the new creation. The words of Jesus in **John 16:7** are about to be fulfilled: "**Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.**"
- It's fascinating to see how these fearful followers who were huddled in a house were transformed into bold proclaimers of the gospel.
- Have you ever wondered how they went from frightened wimps to faithful warriors for God?