

UNEXPECTED PEACE

John 20:19-31

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, first day of the week, evening, doors locked, disciples, fear, Jews, stood among them, peace, showed them his hands and side, Lord, Father, sent, breathed, Holy Spirit, forgive sins, Thomas, the twelve, the twin, mark of the nails, believe, My Lord and my God, blessed, many other signs, written, this book, Christ, the Son of God, life in his name

Introduction

Locked in a room for fear of the Jews, the small group of believers met to see what Jesus would do next. It had been a week since he appeared very much alive. Then in a startling appearance, Jesus, the risen Christ, stands among them and declares peace. He showed them his wounds, the price of the peace he gives, and reminds them that they are sent to minister in his name. The good news of the kingdom expressed in the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins was the mission.

Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus appeared and when he learned about his appearing and he is not convinced. Perhaps he wants to believe, but he needs more or so he thinks. Jesus will soon meet him in the doubt and give him faith. Similar to Thomas, the evidence is all around you if you're willing to see it through the eyes of faith. The skeptical person who lives among others like him should take comfort in knowing that Jesus will patiently minister to us in seasons of doubt. These things are written that you may believe and have eternal life.

Outline

Jesus' wounds show the purchase price of peace with God (v. 19).

The Holy Spirit empowers ministry and witness (vv. 22-23).

Consistency in gathering with God's people is always important, especially when you are struggling with faith and godliness (v. 25).

There is a difference between stubborn refusal and sincere doubts (v. 25).

If you are looking for Jesus, you will find him in the Bible (v. 31).

The object of your faith must be Jesus, not facts or doctrine (v. 31).

Application

Do the peace and joy of Jesus fuel a life of mission in you?

Are you doing ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Do you have eternal life?

Questions

1. What fears are you currently struggling with?
2. Describe the peace of Jesus in your life.
3. What does it mean to live a life on mission for Jesus Christ? What does it look like?
4. How does Jesus' patience with Thomas encourage you? Why is it so difficult to believe that Jesus loves to meet us when we struggle?
5. Are you experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in your life? Why or why not?