



A New Peace and Power

1. Peace from His presence

2. Power from His purpose

Resurrection Stories

A new peace and power

Read

- **Luke 24:36-49 ; John 20:19-22**

Intro

The Emmaus disciples meet with the 11 disciples back in Jerusalem – they shared the experience and revelation that the Lord is Risen. In John we see that the disciples were in fear and they had locked the doors, afraid of the potential cost of their association with Jesus to the religious leaders.

They were worried about what was going to happen to them. Gathered together, full of fear, full of confusion while being in a locked room they have had two occasions to hear that Jesus is Risen now they have another two disciples saying they had seen him as well. But again, they dismiss this. This can't be right we saw Him crucified? The room is full of chaotic doubt.

Into this scene walks Jesus – and He said to them 'Peace be with you'

1. Peace from His presence

They doubt even in His risen presence

They are startled and confused – if Jesus appeared in our meeting or we suddenly saw Jesus on our zoom call we too would freak out. We can understand what they are going through. They saw him crucified and they think his appearance is because he is a ghost. He asks why are you troubled. The response of the disciples is strangely comforting – they are seeing Jesus with their eyes yet they doubt. We all have doubts but they have it even when they are in His risen presence.

This has parallels with the storm account – He quietens the storm – and says why are you so troubled why are you so afraid? This doesn't undermine the fearfulness of the event – the point is they need not fear when He is with them. Why are you afraid in my presence? Stepping into their fear and doubt and confusion His heart is to bring them peace. V39 see my hands and my feet – it is I myself – touch me and see. We can sense that Jesus wants them to get that it is He – it is not a hallucination – He is physically with them.

The Holy Spirit wants to engage our senses

He wants them to engage their senses, to dispel their doubts. Touch me and see. He engages sight, hands, and touch. I am really alive – you can believe your senses.

I believe the Holy Spirit wants to engage our senses – where they have become dulled and numbed. Jesus is standing before them saying see me, see again what I have done at the cross – reach out again – engage your senses to comprehend that He is really risen.



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1. Peace from His presence

2. Power from His purpose

Peace through His presence

- There are many different things in our life that we can be fearful about – concerns about finance, family, reintegration, health, how we engage with church, fear about the future or what God's purpose is for us. Let Jesus bring you peace by His presence.
- He wants to step into the midst of your fears and brings peace by engaging senses.
- If Jesus could physically walk into my life and dispel my fears – peace would come because He was there. But how do we apply that?
- He isn't physically with us. We must realize there is more going on here than we may realize. He says Peace be with you (twice in John). In John 14:27 he says 'Peace I leave with you ...let not your hearts be troubled'.
- The night before he was crucified He says 'guys I need you to have my peace'. Four days after saying this they are not peaceful – they had forgotten what he had said. They had forgotten them and He says them again He says I give you my peace. John 14:25 these things I spoke to you ... but the Holy Spirit will come and remind you.
- The peace He gives is bound up with the giving of the Holy Spirit. We see this in John 20:21-22 when He breathed on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

We are better off now than being in Jesus physical presence

- Offer of peace is bound up with the promise that they will receive the Holy Spirit. Resurrection important because it opens up the door of us receiving the Holy Spirit. We can experience more peace than if Jesus is physically with us. How can that be true? John 16:7 He says that it is to your advantage that I go away – the helper will not come to you.
- It's better for me to go because when I go I am going to send the Holy Spirit.
- After He is gone and He has baptized them in the holy Spirit He will be more alive to him – they knew him much better after Pentecost than the days in His flesh.
- We see this in the life of disciples – Pentecost transforms them – full of getting it wrong as they walked with Jesus. But when the Holy Spirit is poured out they are filled with power. They went from being with them to being in them.
- He is in us – He lives in us by his Holy Spirit. We don't have to hide away in fear – we don't have to scabble about for peace – we can know the full peace of Jesus dwelling in us.
- Raised in Christ – he is a living God who carries us. This is the difference the resurrection makes. We do not follow a wooden God. Through His Spirit He is filling us and giving us joy and peace.



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2. We have power for His purpose

You too will enjoy new resurrected bodies

- V20 when He had said this – whilst they still disbelieved and marveled. He has a snack where he again emphasizes the fact that He is physically rise.
- If Jesus physically rose from the grave there is hope for our physical resurrection. We will be with Jesus in resurrection body. One day you will be healed because Jesus is raised physically raised from the dead.

Just as the Father has sent me so I will send you

- He goes on to explain the scriptures all pointed towards Him – for them to live fruitful lives they need the word and the Holy Spirit.
- V36-37 Christ will suffer and rise ... and proclaim good news. Death, Resurrection and proclamation all tie together – you are witnesses to my death.
- All have been fulfilled you are now going to be a witness of all of these things to proclaim the gospel – we are a witness it's not what they do it's who they are.
- Witness is their experience of what they had seen. Witnesses in a crime film never question actually being a witness the question is always about their willingness and ability to testify.
- It is the same question for us – not a question of whether we are a witness – the question is are we willing to testify to what you have seen and heard to other people.
- In the John passage Jesus says as the Father sent me even so I will send you. Pretty explicit, pretty clear on what He expects us to go and do. As we hear these words what is our reaction to these words?
- Most of us react to this with a sense of fear and inadequacy. But we are being sent - we can miss the relational dynamic in this verse – relational dynamic behind Father and Son that is the dynamic between Jesus and us. Sending you out in deep relationship – the most incredible privilege and honor.
- How did the disciples feel? He says peace to you, they touch him, they read the scriptures, they receive the Holy Spirit – now go. Did their peace evaporate?
- Remember how they felt at the start. Fearful of their association – what has changed – don't need to worry about cost of association with a dead guy – instead they are associated with the Son of God.
- Proclaiming someone who is a defeated rebel is one thing – going out and declaring association with the King and Messiah changes their commission.



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We do not proclaim an ideology but a Risen King

- We are not proclaiming an ideology we are going out with the Risen King. He is sending the promise of the Father with you. Sending the promise of the Holy Spirit upon you – the disciples are told to stay and wait for the power on high.
- Without the power of the Holy Spirit the message doesn't even get out of the room let out of Jerusalem. The reason you and I are here this morning is because of Pentecost – we are a living testimony of the power of Pentecost poured out on the church.
- The Resurrection turned the locked room of fear into the upper room of proclamation. Often, we live in a locked room. We have received power on high. Power of Holy Spirit turns their experience into a living witness.
- At Pentecost – they burst out onto the streets – 9.00 in morning – they have been there all night and maybe many nights – waiting and praying. Waiting and praying to receive this transformation.
- How much are we willing to do this? – how much do we want this to burst out of the church onto the streets overflowing with power?
- When they engaged their senses with the risen Jesus – their experience becomes a tangible visible testimony for everybody to witness.

Witness as an overflowing experience

- They don't just do – their experience overflows – it's not a hidden influence – it's a living principle. Which one of those is He for us – a silent influence unseen – or a daily experienced power?
- The end goal of the cross is not just our forgiveness or reconciliation – it's not just the hope of eternal life – it's that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit.
- Spurgeon asked his people a number of questions 'Have you received the spirit? Are you filled with power? Some of you hardly know whether you are in this power. You are naked and miserable when you can be clad in golden garments. He waiteth to be gracious but we linger in indifference'.
- Because of the resurrection the promise of the Holy Spirit has been fulfilled – there is so much more for us to experience – bringing us into the fulness of His power. He waits to do that greatly – what is our response?
- Encourage you not to linger in indifference -receive the Holy Spirit. I can't give a formula for you but this is Jesus's promise.
- Just pray Come Holy Spirit. Give me your peace Holy Spirit fill my heart with your love Holy Spirit. He may come quietly, internally, he engages us where we are at.
- We can in faith receive – ask him to do something God has ordained.