

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015
The Risen Christ: His Grace and His Gifts
John 20:19-23 (page 756)

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Frank Mascaro

Jesus graciously c o m e s to us

- despite the b a r r i e r s we erect (John 20:19a)
- in our f e a r f u l n e s s (John 20:19b; Isa 41:9-10)
- p e r s o n a l l y and i n t i m a t e l y (John 20:19c, 20)

Jesus g i v e s us the gift of

- p e a c e (John 20:19d, 21a; Eph 2:14-18; Rom 5:1; Heb 9:14 ; Phil 4:6-7; Matt 6:31-34)
- p u r p o s e (John 20:21b; 2 Cor 5:18-20)
- p o w e r (John 20:22-23; John 16:7; Acts 1:8)

Taking it in...

Because He lives, Jesus is able to m e e t us where we a r e
and e q u i p us to l i v e for Him today!

EASTER SUNDAY

Growth Group

Sermon Study Helps

John 20:19-23 (Week Twenty-eight)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

It is the evening of the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb. Mary Madeline had reported that Jesus had risen and was alive very early that morning to the disciples but they couldn't believe her. Peter and John race to the tomb only to find it empty, with Jesus' grave clothes lying on the slab and His head cloth neatly folded beside the linens. We find that the disciples (minus Thomas) are barricaded in a locked house somewhere in Jerusalem - perhaps the same house with the Upper Room where they spent their last time with Jesus. There is fear, confusion, uncertainty - they are disoriented and emotionally paralyzed. And then....out of nowhere, Jesus appears and He meets them in their fear and assures them He is really alive. Jesus CAME and He GIVES - gives us His peace, new purpose and new power to live for Him!

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

Discuss how you may have felt if you had been there with the

disciples on that first Easter - in the house, fearful and locked within. What things might have been running through your heart and mind? Why?

What are some of the barriers that we erect to keep Jesus from coming to us? What were some identified in the sermon? How do they keep Jesus at "arms length" from us?

What are some fears that keep our eyes off of Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus invited the disciples to check out the wounds in His body? What did that help the disciples to know and understand? What does it help us to understand?

According to the sermon, what are several "spheres of relationships" that we realize the PEACE that Jesus gives to us? (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:14-18; Col 3:15; Heb 9:14; Phil 4:6-7; Matt 6:31-34)

Ultimately, where do we find real peace, where is it sourced?

What new purpose does Jesus give to us and how does that change our perspective on life and how we live?

How does Jesus equip us to be able to live out this purpose - what role does the Holy Spirit play in our Christian life? Discuss and give examples.

Taking it to the streets....

How can I apply these truths to my life? Pick one area (peace, purpose, power) that you struggle with the most and begin to identify one or two steps you can take this week to live as Jesus has called us.

What is the biggest impact that Easter has in your life? Why? How does that look in your daily life?