

“We Have Seen The Lord!”

Pastor Jeff Alexander + April 23, 2017

John 20:19-23

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Why were the disciples afraid on that first Easter evening?

Where had Jesus been before coming and standing among the disciples?

Jesus delivers perfect peace to those who receive Him into their lives.

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

As the Father sent the Son to save the world, now the Son sends the church to reach the world with the message of salvation.

Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into those who receive Him into their lives.

John 14:26

“The Holy Spirit...will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

As the church receives the Spirit and is sent out into the world, the gift that is theirs to share is the forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ.

John 20:24-31

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

How does Thomas serve as a representative for all of us?

How does Jesus promise His blessing in your life today?

