

Sermon Outline

THE YEAR IN OUR LORD, 2010-2011

- Mar 27: The Lamb of God (Jn 1:19-29) • April 10: The Bread of Life (Jn 6:22-35)
- April 17: The Hour Has Come (Jn 12:20-26) • April 22: It Is Finished (Jn 19:16-30)
- **April 24: Peace Be With You (Jn 20:19-23)**

PEACE BE WITH YOU: AN EASTER MESSAGE

(JOHN 20:19-23)

I. A New Beginning

II. Dawn of a New Day (John 20:1-10)

III. Jesus Comes (John 20:19)

- A. On the evening of first day, the disciples were together in one place.
- B. They were hiding “for fear of the Jews.”
- C. “Jesus came and stood among them.”
- D. The disciples were startled and frightened because they thought that they had seen a ghost (Lk 24:37).
—This tells us that Jesus may simply have walked through the door, or else that he just appeared out of nowhere.
- E. Jesus gives the traditional Jewish greeting: “Peace be with you.”

IV. Jesus Shows His Hands and Side (John 20:20)

V. Once Again, Peace Be with You (John 20:21)

- A. Jesus gives his disciples the greeting again: “Peace be with you.”
- B. The fact that Jesus gives this greeting twice tells us that this is more than just a familiar greeting.
—Jesus was truly imparting peace, *shalom*, to his disciples.
- C. Why do the disciples need to hear this greeting more than once?
 - 1. Because they had been through a lot.
 - 2. Because they had not stood with Jesus in his sufferings.
- D. Jesus has no hatred for his disciples, only peace and friendship.
—After all, it was for them that he died!
- E. The peace of Jesus can be understood in two ways.
 - 1. It is the absence of enmity between God and man.
 - 2. It is reconciliation with God.

VI. A New Israel, A New Humanity (John 20:22-23)

- A. Jesus gives his *royal commission* to his disciples: “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you” (v 22).
- B. Jesus exhales *the Holy Spirit* on his disciples (v 22).
 - 1. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
 - 2. The symbol of God’s Spirit is moving air or wind.
 - 3. By breathing the Spirit on his disciples...
 - a. Jesus is affirming that he is YHWH, who gives his Spirit.
 - b. Jesus is saying that the Spirit of God has now taken up residence in the disciples.
—The community of Jesus is the new Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Jesus bestows *authority to offer the Gospel* on the disciples (v 23).
 - 1. The Church has the right to pronounce forgiveness on those who receive Christ and judgment on those who reject him.
 - 2. The Church is not the source of forgiveness, but the announcer of God’s forgiveness.
- D. The significance of John 20:19-23 is great indeed:
 - 1. Jesus is now speaking in his capacity as the resurrected Lord of all.
 - 2. By bestowing authority on the Church to pronounce forgiveness on sins, Jesus is marginalizing the Jewish leaders.
—From now on, God’s people will look to Christ and his apostles for direction, not the Pharisees or Chief Priests.
 - 3. Jesus has redefined both Israel and the human race in general.
 - a. Israel is no longer defined by the Pharisees and the corrupted Priests but Jesus.
 - b. By uniting Jews and non-Jews in himself, Jesus has practically created a new human race; a new human nation under him (Eph 2:12-16).
 - 4. In sum: Just as God breathed his Spirit and created the world, God now breathes his Spirit through his Son and creates a new world. The Church of Jesus Christ is the start of the new heavens and new earth (Isa 66:22).

VII. Enter the Peace of Christ

His Resurrected Majesty, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the rightful King of the Nations and the Ruler of the heavens and the earth. He is the One to whom all rulers and authorities, all nations and cultures, owe their trust and allegiance. If we trust in him, Jesus will give us his peace, place us in the field of God’s favor. No matter the ugliness of our sins, no matter the shame in our lives, Jesus loves us. How much does he love us? To the point of coming to stay in our hearts by his Spirit. To the point of making us his new Family.