

The Risen Christ Gives Peace

John 20:19-29

A. Introduction

1. There is something every human being longs for but struggles to find—peace.
2. You can see this struggle for something just out of reach in all situations.
3. Since the fall in Eden, humanity has been on a restless search for peace.
4. The prophet Isaiah diagnosed the problem clearly when he said:
5. *“There is no peace... for the wicked”* (Isaiah 57:21)
6. And Paul warned:
7. *“When they say, ‘Peace and safety,’ then sudden destruction comes.”* (1Thess. 5:3)
8. This world offers a temporary, fragile, & a false peace but never a lasting peace.
9. Yet into this restless world came Jesus Christ.
10. Isaiah called Him the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).
11. Jesus promised, *“My peace I give unto you.”* (John 14:27)
12. And in John 20, after the resurrection, something remarkable happens:
13. The first words of the risen Christ to His disciples are: *“Peace be with you.”*
14. This is not a casual greeting.
15. It is a gift, a declaration. It is a reality grounded in the resurrection.
16. Jesus is declaring that He Himself is the source of peace—& He freely gives it.

B. We Can Have Peace When We’re Afraid (v. 19)

1. The scene opens in fear.
2. *“Where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews”*
3. The disciples are gathered, perhaps even huddled together, behind locked doors.
4. The atmosphere is heavy and tense. Why?
5. Because they are afraid of arrest & persecution. Where they next?
6. The irony was that it should have been a day of celebration, not for hiding!
 - a. Christ had risen from the grave; He was alive!
 - b. The tomb was empty; the promise of resurrection fulfilled.
 - c. Angels had rolled the stone away, showing God's power
7. The tomb was empty because Christ had risen & death had been defeated.
8. But fear had blinded them to hope. Isn't that still true today?
9. This brings out an important truth.
10. We can be surrounded by God's promises... yet still be overwhelmed by fear.
11. The disciples were hiding, & suddenly: *“Jesus came and stood in the midst”*
12. No knocking or warning. No barrier could stop Him – no locks or walls.
13. As Matthew Henry said: *“No doors can shut out Christ's presence.”*
14. And what does Jesus say? *“Peace be with you.”*
15. Not rebuke, correction or disappointment.
16. No comment on what they had done, or had not done!
17. The only thing He says is: *“Peace.”*
18. Because His death secured forgiveness & His resurrection secured victory.
19. Fear loses its grip when we remember the risen Christ stands in the room with us.

C. **We Can Have Peace When We're Apprehensive (vv. 20–21)**

1. Now the disciples move from fear to uncertainty about the future.
2. Jesus shows them His hands & His side. Why was this important?
3. These were the hands that were nailed to the cross.
4. This was the wound in His side that confirmed His death to the soldiers.
5. Showing these wounds, in effect was proof of His identity & sacrifice.
6. And then comes a shift. Jesus changes the focus:
7. *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*
8. Now suddenly they understand, importantly fact, their lives are about to change
9. They now have a mission to be sent into the world.
10. Then come the doubts. *"Are we ready? Are we strong enough? What if we fail?"*
11. That's where we often are, living in that same tension.
12. Unsure about serving, & stepping out in faith, & doing what God is asking of us.
13. But notice something very important: this is a natural progression.
14. Jesus gives peace, then the assignment, then follows it with empowerment.
15. God never calls you to something without giving you peace for it.
16. Therefore: You don't need confidence in yourself, because Christ is sufficient.

D. **We Can Have Peace When We Feel Alone (vv. 26–29)**

1. Now we meet one of the most well-known disciples. Doubting Thomas!
2. He missed the first appearance of Jesus. Why? Was it a crisis of faith?
3. Or was his grief that strong he needed to be alone? Was he misunderstood?
4. When he returned & heard about Jesus' appearance, he doubted the testimony.
5. He stood alone in his uncertainty. Imagine the emotional weight:
6. Everyone else believes & rejoices. But Thomas struggles.
7. He is the only doubter in a room full of believers filled with the Holy Spirit!
8. But eight days later, Jesus comes again. And this time—He comes for Thomas.
9. He says: *"Put your finger here...See my hands...Stop doubting and believe."*
10. What grace! Jesus doesn't shame him.
11. He meets him, & restores him, & again, He brings peace.
12. Even when you feel spiritually or emotionally distant alone in your doubts
13. The risen Christ comes to you personally. You are never beyond His reach.

E. **Conclusion**

1. The message of this passage is beautifully simple:
2. The risen Christ brings peace for every condition of the heart.
3. Afraid? Apprehensive? Or Alone? → He says, *Peace*.
4. And this peace is not circumstantial, temporary, or superficial.
5. It is resurrection peace, bought by the cross & secured by the empty tomb
6. Are you enslaved by fear? → Trust the risen Christ and receive His peace.
7. Are you apprehensive about what lies ahead? → Trust His calling & His power.
8. Do you feel alone—even in your faith? → Trust His presence. He comes to you.