

Speaker: Dave Solmes  
Title: April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday  
Text – John 20:19-22

Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! “Peace be with you,” he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Question - Have you noticed the questions surfacing in people’s minds these days?  
Question - Where is God in the midst of crisis?

Jesus brought a bunch of gifts to this simple meeting and turned it into a bit of a party.

### **#1. The gift of His presence**

*Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders.*

- Resurrection Sunday is about Jesus in the room ...
- Resurrection Sunday is about Jesus at the meeting ...
- Resurrection Sunday is about Jesus in the middle of the conversation.
- Resurrection Sunday is about Jesus finding his way behind closed doors and into the middle of trouble and tragedy and times of uncertainty.

### **#2. The Gift of peace**

*Peace be with you,” he said.*

Jesus puts a name on Himself, “peace”. It was foretold he would be the prince of peace. The domain for the prince is rule in the hearts and minds of people.

- Peace when it widens includes neighbourhoods and countries
- Peace when it narrows includes peace with your “one another”

John 14:27 I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give, is a gift the world cannot give. So, don’t be troubled or afraid.”

Question - What kind an example can be as we daily unwrap the gift of peace?

Question - Do you have peace in your life these days?

Question - What would stop you from having peace of mind and heart?

### **#3. The Gift of fulfilled prophecy**

*As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.*

Standing with them in that room Jesus showed them evidence of fulfilled prophecy. The wounds in his hands and His side reminded the disciples to understand hundreds of years of God's Divine narrative and God's redemptive plan unfolding. Many say that there are over 300 old testament prophecies fulfilled in the Life of Jesus. God's plan would never and will never be thwarted. In the new testament in John 20 God was influencing His Divine plan. His plan was moving along. Up from the grave Jesus arose. A saviour of the world.

Faith makes you look at the past, present, and future a certain way. On that first resurrection Sunday the uncertainty the disciples had really hadn't changed but their appreciation for companionship had. God was with them.

### **#4. The Gift of joy**

*They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!*

Question - What changed in the disciples lives ?

It seems their perspective on the future had changed. Perhaps they sensed that everything was going to be ok. Regardless, their mood changed. The small group turned into a place filled with joy where the anxiousness left and the fear of the unknown left. They found a new centre and perspective.

C.S. Lewis said, "The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is."

Question - Have you noticed that a lot of good things happen when we admit, every hour, what is out of our control, and then take the courage to hour by hour handle the things we have control of?

### **#5. The Gift of purpose**

*Jesus says - As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.*

Despite how threatening a day Jesus reminded them of the calling upon their lives. They were followers of Jesus. A sent people. This renewed purpose was so necessary.

## **#6. The Gift of the spirit**

*Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

Resurrection Power – the same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you

*Matthew 14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."*

*Mark 6:50*

*for they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid."*

*Mark 10:49*

*And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you."*

Question - How does a life change when a person is filled with courage. God knows this, so He sent His spirit.

Summary: Everything changed for the discouraged group of disciples hiding behind locked doors when Resurrected Jesus drew near.

Close: Accept the invitation Jesus gives to you personally – today. Understand God has got the whole world in His hand. God knocks today so we can hear of His desire to draw near. He seeks to meet you in your place of self-isolation. This is the Resurrected Lord, standing in your midst speaking a better word. Resurrection Sunday is a party that everybody is invited to.

Personal Challenge: Make sure you get there, it will insure you have a better day and better days to come.