

ULC Sermon Study Resource

He is Risen // Risen to Send

Pastor Gabe

April 16, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite part about Spring? What is your least favorite part?

Reading: John 20:19-23

Outline:

- I. There is fear (v.19).
 - A. After Jesus's resurrection, the disciples feared the religious authorities of the day, so they locked themselves in a room to hide. The disciples left their careers to follow Jesus, expecting Him to conquer their enemies. But instead, He was crucified.
 - B. In our times of fear, Jesus shows up in His victory over death and invites us into death to ourselves. "Death to ourselves says, I can't solve all the problems in this world or in my own life, but God sent Jesus to face the worst this world has to offer on my behalf and he's already won, and his victory is my victory, so there's nothing I need to fear, he is in control." -Gabe
Q: *When have you felt fear similar to how the disciples may have felt fear?*
- II. There is peace (v. 21)
 - A. Jesus appears to the disciples and tells them to have peace. But, the type of peace he speaks about is the same type of peace used to refer to harmony between heaven and earth. Not only will there be an absence of conflict, but justice will prevail.
 - B. "In the midst of fear, Jesus brings peace and sends us out. This is the very nature of the church and by extension your life. To receive the peace of Christ and then to be sent out to extend that peace to a hurting and fearful world." -Pastor Gabe
Q: *Where in your life could you use God's peace?*
- III. You are sent (v.22-23)
 - A. Jesus sends his church out with the power of the Holy Spirit and with a proclamation of forgiveness. With forgiveness, we can extend the peace of Christ absolutely covered and saturated in the grace of God.
 - B. The message we have as Christians is this: There is a God who loves us so much that He sent Jesus into this world to give Himself on the cross that we might be forgiven. Nothing in this world, nothing we've done or haven't done, no fear or anxiety, can separate us from His love.
Q: *How can we maintain a sent posture towards others?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How do we avoid fear when Jesus's death and resurrection may not always seem the most relevant to our fearful situations?
- 2) How can we seek the sort of peace Jesus talks about in our day to day lives?
- 3) How can we recognize the hurt in the world while also providing peace to others?
- 4) How can we remind ourselves that we are forgiven, even in times of trouble?

Suggestions for further study:

- Ephesians 2:14 Q: How does this verse show us the weight of Jesus's appearance to the disciples in the locked room?
- Matthew 28:18-20 Q: How do these verses give us an image of how Jesus sends us out?

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for meeting us in our fear and anxieties and for bringing us your peace. Teach us to remember that you have victory over the grave forever. Continue to send us out to proclaim your love, forgiveness, and peace to all. Amen.