

Scripture and Discussion: Just Sayin'.

John 20:19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

John 20:20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

John 20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (NRSV)

John 20:19 ¶ That 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.

John 20:20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

John 20:21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

John 20:22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:23 If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (NLT)

Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?" (The MSG)

How often do we expect people to hear our words and instantly find them incredibly valuable? How disappointing is it when we realize they aren't really helping?

In our scripture this week, Jesus comes to his disciples just a few days after the resurrection (7 to be exact). The disciples are locked up in a room while the biggest party of the year in Jerusalem is going on outside. The disciples are terrified of a handful of people and the population of Jerusalem tripled during this festival. They could go out and participate but instead are locked up.

Our bottom line this week is:
Nothing can be set free from behind locked doors.

Jesus wants us to understand what life is like when we are will to open up the doors holding us in our false selves and the doors we can open for other people. The Holy Spirit is a game changer we each have access too.

Discussion Questions:

1. What doors can you unlock for yourself this week?
2. What door can you open for someone else?
3. Identify one step you can take towards living an unlocked life. Then make it a priority this week.

Prayer:

Lord-help me break free from the door that have been holding me back. Show me how you are unlocking them and what I can do to unlock them. Help me to understand my words are given to me so I can bring new life to things, not cause death.