

Jesus' Appearance to the Disciples

John 20:19-23

October 29, 2023

Each post-resurrection appearance of Jesus depicts a different aspect of the way that believers are to relate to Jesus. Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene depicts the way Jesus is to be related to spiritually. Jesus' appearance to the disciples depicts how the church is to be related to God by participating in the mission of God through Christ and in/by the Spirit.

1. The Peace of God (19-20)

a. The disciples need for the peace of God (19a)

- i. "Then the same day at evening" – this second appearance occurred on the same day as Jesus' resurrection.
- ii. "On the first day of the week"
 1. Just as God created light on the first day of the week in Genesis, so Jesus creates the new creation on the first day of the week.
 2. Here it appears that the early church is meeting together for the first time on the first day of the week. Judas and Thomas were not present, but there would have been a Jewish quorum of 10 men.
- iii. "When the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews"
 1. The disciples were not intending to gather for worship.
 2. They were hiding behind closed doors in fear of the Jews.

b. Jesus' pronouncement of the peace of God (19b-20a)

- i. Jesus appears to the disciples as suddenly as He appeared to Mary, likely passing through the shut doors illustrating the nature of His resurrected body (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:44).
- ii. Jesus came to His disciples just as He promised (cf. 14:18; 28).
- iii. Jesus pronounces God's peace to His disciples which He has purchased for us.
- iv. Jesus demonstrates His wounded hands and side as the source of our peace with God (20a).
 1. Jesus' wounds declare our peace with God.
 2. Isaiah 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
 3. Jesus became our peace, our Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

c. The disciples response to Jesus pronouncement of the peace of God (20b)

- i. Jesus' presence demonstrated His defeat of death and sin.
- ii. The disciples fear was turned to joy!
- iii. The room was transformed from a hideout to a place of worship.

2. The Mission of God (21)

a. Peace in the mission of God – "Peace be with you"

- i. God's peace is to accompany the disciples in their mission.
- ii. The disciples are to be agents of God's peace to the world.

b. Participation in the mission of God – "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you"

- i. The Father sent the Son, and the Son sends His disciples (cf. 17:21).
- ii. Our God is a missionary God; true worship of God must be accomplished by participation in the mission of God, the proclamation of God's peace to this world.
- iii. True worship is an embodiment of God's truth in the life of a disciple.
- iv. God gave His Son for the world; Jesus gave His life for the world; in what ways are you committing yourself to proclaim God's peace to this world?

3. The Spirit of God (22)

- a. The Holy Spirit is the Agent of eternal life.
 - i. The Spirit was the agent of God in creation, and so He is in the new creation (cf. Genesis 1:2).
 - ii. In creation, God breathed the breath of life into Adam, and in the New Creation, the church, Jesus breathes the Spirit of God into believers.
 - iii. The Spirit of God unites the church to God allowing them to participate in the very life and mission of God.
 - iv. 3:5 “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
 - v. It is through the life of the Spirit, that we enjoy new life through the Second Adam, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:45-59).
- b. As descendants of the Second Adam, the church is indwelt by the Holy Spirit to be agents of the mission of God in this world.
 - i. Believers are both recipients and ministers of the work of God.
 - ii. In imparting the Holy Spirit to the disciples, Jesus has fulfilled His mission; their separation from God has been eternally removed.
 - iii. The Gospel of John focuses on the giving of the Holy Spirit in connection to Jesus’ resurrection proving that His work was truly completed (cf. 19:30).
 - iv. The Book of Acts focuses on the giving of the Holy Spirit in connection to Jesus’ ascension. It wasn’t until the Day of Pentecost that the disciples more clearly understood Jesus’ giving of the Holy Spirit.

4. The Ministerial Authority of God (23)

- a. The authority to forgive sins belongs to Jesus.
- b. Jesus gives His disciples a role to play in His forgiveness of sins.
- c. The tense of the verbs are perfect passive which helps us to realize that God is the One Primary Agent of forgiveness and not the disciples.
- d. If disciples do not proclaim peace with God through the death and resurrection of Christ, the lost will not have the opportunity to receive forgiveness of sins.
- e. Romans 10:14 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”
- f. 2 Corinthians 5:20 “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

Conclusion:

1. Do you have peace with God? What is the source of your peace with God? Is Jesus your peace, or are you trying to establish your own?
2. Have you accepted the commission to be messengers of the peace of God?
3. How does your life reflect the missionary nature of God?
4. Are you nurturing an awareness of God’s Holy Spirit within you?
5. Have you identified people in your life that may not receive God’s forgiveness if you don’t reach them?