

I. Introduction. v. 19a

- A. There is much fear in the world.
- B. The church began in fearful times. v. 19a Luke 24:10-11,19-21
- C. Some here may also be in a state of fear and despair.

II. The risen Jesus transforms your fear and despair into peace and joy. v. 19b-20

- A. Jesus offers peace to unworthy and fearful sinners. v. 19b
 - 1. How did Jesus get past the locked doors? Luke 24:36-37
 - 2. Jesus is merciful and kind to weak, fearful and doubting sinners. Ps. 103:11ff
 - 3. But how can God be at peace with sinful men? Jesus came to bring (objective) peace between God and sinful mankind by His blood. Col. 1:19-20 Ro. 5:1
 - 4. Jesus also gives us inward (subjective) peace. 14:27 16:33 II Th. 3:16
 - 5. Have you received the peace Jesus offers? Rom. 5:1 Phil. 4:7
 - 6. Are you merciful and kind to weak and fearful sinners? Eph. 4:32 Rom. 15:7
- B. The peace of Jesus is founded upon the historic reality of His resurrection. v. 20a
 - 1. John has written an historic account of the incarnation, the life, the miracles, the teaching, the death and the resurrection of Jesus. 1:1-4,14,18 20:30-31
 - 2. Why does Jesus invite His disciples to examine His wounds? Luke 24:36-40
I John. 1:1-4 I Cor. 15:3-19
- C. Those who encounter the risen Christ are transformed from fear to joy. v. 20b
 - 1. Jesus had promised that their grief would be transformed into joy. 16:20-22
 - 2. The joy Jesus gives cannot be taken away by the world. 16:22b
 - 3. Do you have the joy that Jesus offers? Phil. 4:4ff
 - 4. Since the presence of the risen Jesus brings peace and joy, how can we experience more of His presence? 14:16-17,23 Mt. 28:20 Heb. 10:25 Rev. 1:13

III. The risen Jesus sends you into the world to proclaim the good news. v. 21-23

- A. You are commissioned to continue Jesus' work. v. 21
 - 1. Jesus was sent by the Father to bring salvation to the world. 3:16-17 5:36 6:29,57
 - 2. He now sends us to continue His work. 4:38 13:16,30 15:16,27 17:18 Acts 1:1ff
Eph. 2:20 Mt. 28:18-20
 - 3. We have authority as His ambassadors of peace. 13:20 II Cor. 5:20
 - 4. When we proclaim the gospel, Jesus preaches peace through us. Eph. 2:17
- B. You are equipped by the Holy Spirit. v. 22
 - 1. How can we go into a hardened hostile world?
 - 2. The Holy Spirit transforms fearful disciples into bold witnesses. Acts 2:1ff
 - 3. How does the Spirit help us to evangelize the world? 16:8,13ff Acts 4:8 I Co. 12:7
 - 4. What is the significance of Jesus' breathing on the disciples? v. 22a 7:37-39
14:16f 15:26f 16:7f Ezek. 37:9ff Joel 2:28ff Gen. 2:7 I Co. 15:45 Acts 1:8 2:16-17,33
 - 5. We should expect to see God do great things through us. 14:12 I Th. 1:5 I Pe. 1:12
- C. Your message is God's free offer of forgiveness through the work of Christ. v. 23
 - 1. Our primary mission is not merely political change or social welfare. I Co. 2:2
 - 2. The great need of humanity is to be right with God through the forgiveness of sin. Acts 2:22-24,32-41 3:19 14:23

3. Jesus is not teaching that certain people have arbitrary authority to forgive or to condemn. I Tim. 2:5 Mark 2:1-10 Col. 1:13
 4. God's terms of forgiveness are clearly laid out in John's gospel. 3:15-18 20:30-31 1:12-13,29 Gal. 1:8
 5. Our authority to forgive sin is delegated and declarative. 3:18 Acts 3:19 14:23 Mt. 10:40
 - a. We continue Jesus' work by proclaiming His message in the power of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38ff
 - b. Our proclamation divides men into two categories, forgiven and unforgiven, based upon their response to Christ. 3:18
 - c. We, upon the authority of God's Word, pronounce His forgiveness upon those who believe and His condemnation upon those who reject Jesus. Mt. 10:40
 6. What a great message: God forgives sinners! Ps. 103:12 I Jo. 1:8ff Isa. 43:25 1:18
 7. We need to step forward in faith and obedience. 15:9-10 8:29 Mt. 28:20
- D. To be sent by Christ means that we should be prepared to pay a Christlike price for embarking on a Christlike mission. 15:18-21 Mark 8:34ff

IV. Concluding applications. I Co. 15:58

Discussion questions

1. How do you feel when you fail Jesus? What is His attitude towards you?
2. What is the nature of the peace Jesus offers?
3. Why is this historical fact of the resurrection necessary before we can have peace?
4. How can we have joy which is not dependent upon our earthly circumstances?
5. Why does Jesus choose this particular moment to commission His disciples? v. 21
6. What does Jesus send us to do?
7. How are we able to fulfill our mission?
8. In what sense can we proclaim that people's sins are forgiven?
9. What do you plan to do to fulfill the commission Jesus has given us?