

Sermon April 16, 2023

John 20: 19-31

“Behind locked Doors”

The beginning of a new week, it was Sunday evening of the first week after the resurrection. Jesus’s disciples were huddled in together in fear behind a lock and bolted door. Even after hearing the news from Mary Magdalene that she had seen and spoken with the risen Jesus the disciples still cowered in fear of the Jews. Deaf to the words of Jesus who had spoken to them before his death. Now even with Mary’s announcement I have seen the Lord, they were gripped with fear!

John 20: 18

“Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.”

Fear had paralyzed the disciples. Just as fear grips us, our emotions take over and all reason is distorted or blinded by fear. This blindness hinders us daily, whether it be fear, stress and anxiety, loss, or illness. We lose all sense of reason and become paralyzed by our own emotions.

John 20: 19-20

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Jesus came to them in spite of their locked door and fearful state “Jesus came and stood among them”

Quote from Cyril of Alexandria:

“When Christ greeted his holy disciples with the words “peace be with you” by peace he meant himself, for Christ presence always brings tranquility of the soul. This is the grace Paul desired for believers when he wrote” The peace of Christ which passes all understanding will guard your heart and minds.” End of quote.

The Grace of God is our gift given to each believer this grace breaks through our own blindness, fear, and anxiety.

He has Risen!

Jesus suddenly appears among them he did not allow physical barriers to keep him from being with his disciples that desperately needed him just as we desperately need him in our own fear and disbelief.

Jesus shows his marks of Love to them his hands pierced by spikes, his side pierced by a Roman spear.

Other church father Leo the Great:

Quote:” Jesus offers the doubters eyes the marks of the cross that remained in his hands and feet and invites them to handle him with careful scrutiny. He does this because the traces of the nails and spear had been retained to heal the wounds of unbelieving hearts, so that not with wavering faith but with the most certain conviction. End of Quote”

Jesus comes to us with healing compassion and gives us peace through his grace and in return asked us to believe in him that he came into this world for one purpose to overcome death for us!

This is the only truth that man rejects because we could not do this on our own and were dead in and lost in our own sins this is the true Gospel the real truth, he speaks the truth that sinful man does not want to hear!

The truth of scripture and who he is as true God and true man as he comforts us in this world today in 2023.

In this present culture where truth is being destroyed by man because man can't and does not want the truth that he is lost with our Jesus Christ because of his sinful nature that he can do nothing about with Jesus and his death!

He has Risen!

This culture want a free pass to be free of Jesus and his word Just as Pilate did not want Jesus to say more for in his truth there is conviction and through the truth there is life eternal!

John 18: 37-39

“ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews.”

John 20: 21-23

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

Jesus not only consoled and comforted them as he does with us but gave them the power of the Holy Spirit to empower them in a way they never had!

This group of men his disciples who had once abandon him, one even rejected him by denying he even know him!

Locked them selves in a room for fear were now given the keys to unlock their own locked hearts and minds and equipping for their new mission and ongoing work to bring the gospel out into the open.

He commissions us as well to do the same we are his church, his solders his disciples! We are to go forth and make disciples to all the world.

Our world that He has Risen!

We are to bring this word here at Pinnacle as we unite and grow with new confidence and new excitement for what we can do together!

We are growing, we are stronger here at Pinnacle with Jesus not in locked doors of the past pandemic but alive and see his light as he calls us to come unto him!

We have so much to look forward to starting our mission clarity program to give us direction to grow , with outreach to our local community. To our shared building partner, the preschool in planning for our future in setting up Sunday School o bring in new families and youth programs, new bible studies and care groups!

God is with us here and will guide us with his will for us!

He has risen!