

# BACK IN THE UPPER ROOM WITH JESUS

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Pentecost #1, John 20:19-23

April 11, 2021

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."  
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."  
John 20:21*

## That we may believe

*Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.  
John 20:8*

*<sup>30</sup> Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

John 20:30-31 (see 19:35)

- 1) John continues the journey of faith: John 1:7, 12; 2:11; 3:16; 4:39-41; 5:24; 6:47; 11:45; 16:30-31
- 2) John again turns to creation: at incarnation God speaks, John 1:1-14  
after redemption God rests: John 19:31,42 (see Luke 23:55-56)  
for the church, God breathes, John 20:21-23 (see Acts 2)

## When we see the Lord

*<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.  
John 20:19-20*

- 1) Good things happen when the church is together, especially on "this" first day (see Acts 2!)
- 2) Jesus' arrival finally turns Friday's fear into Sunday's joy
- 3) Even Jesus' scars are redeemed (see Revelation 5:6; 1 Peter 4:1-2)
- 4) After their day of rest, "Peace be with you" gets the church back to work

## Where has the Holy Spirit been?

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.

John 20:21-23

- 1) In redemption, the Son takes center stage – now the Holy Spirit's fruit and gifts are center stage
- 2) This first Great Commission begins with a "new creation" experience (see Genesis 2:7)
- 3) Being sent, receiving the Holy Spirit and forgiving sins are all corporate movements of the church

## Four lessons from John and the Holy Spirit

- 1) Don't assume everyone will be overjoyed at meeting the resurrected Jesus

*He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*

John 1:11-12 (see Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 21:33-45 for another look at rejecting Jesus)

- 2) Knowing the Word is the best way to get ready to meet Jesus

Jesus Christ's presence is always known by his people by the value and the beauty which they are led to attach to the Scripture at such times.

Spurgeon, "Jesus in Our Midst"

- 3) The Great Commissions means that office begins with the priesthood of [all] believers

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith . . . .*

Ephesians 4:11-12

- 4) Forgiveness is going to be sign of the new work of the Spirit in the church

*Love . . . keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth . . . .*

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

## Resources for further studies in John's gospel

The Bible Project team has great stuff on John at <https://open.life.church/items/179216-john-poster-jpg>

Spurgeon has resurrection sermons at <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/the-power-of-his-resurrection/#flipbook/> and my favorite at <http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/sermons/0018.htm>

See also <https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/jesus-in-our-midst/#flipbook/>

J. C. Ryle's commentary on John at [http://www.tracts.ukgo.com/ryle\\_gospel\\_of\\_john.htm](http://www.tracts.ukgo.com/ryle_gospel_of_john.htm)

Deffinbaugh's sermon at <https://bible.org/seriespage/46-seeing-and-believing-john-2010-31>

I have really appreciated D. A. Carson's commentary in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series (Eerdmans, 1991) and Earl Palmer's *The Intimate Gospel* (Word Books, 1978)

The two resources on our union with Christ are John Murray's *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* (Eerdmans, 1955) and Rankin Wilbourne's *Union with Christ* (David C. Cook, 2016). I also recommend Marcus Peter's short study at <https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-union-with-christ/>

S. M. Lockridge's "That's My King" at <https://thatsmyking.wordpress.com/words/>

Leon Morris has a short essay on the atonement in John's gospel at

[http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted\\_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/Morris-JohnsAtonement-CTR.pdf](http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/NTeSources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/Morris-JohnsAtonement-CTR.pdf)