

“The Resurrection Message of Jesus”
John 20:19-29

In the 40-day period between His resurrection and ascension, Jesus made several unforgettable appearances to His followers, providing them with indisputable proof that He was truly alive and had conquered death for all time. Each appearance became a treasured memory to those who witnessed Him alive, one they would gratefully tell and retell for the rest of their lives.

Our focus this morning, however, is on what Jesus Himself had to say about His resurrection, and how His oft repeated message reinforced in His followers some of the great foundational truths of our faith. At the heart of His message was His gift of peace, as we will see in today’s passage. While *Shalom* (Peace) was the traditional greeting of the Jews, the meaning of the Hebrew word is significantly broader than merely the absence of conflict; instead it means wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, carrying with it the implication of permanence. Such is the case with Jesus as He spoke it three times in today’s passage.

1. IT IS THE PEACE OF OUR GREATEST _____ HAVING BEEN DECISIVELY DEFEATED. (20:19-20)

- The _____ for sin was forever obliterated. (John 19:30)
- The slavery to the _____ of death was permanently removed. (John 11:25-26; Hebrews 2:14-15; I Corinthians 15:51-58)

2. IT IS THE PEACE OF A _____ HAVING BEEN REESTABLISHED. (20:21-23)

- Jesus’ death did not put to an end the mission for which He had trained His disciples; rather, because of His resurrection, the cross became their _____. (I Corinthians 1:17-18; 2:2-5; Galatians 6:14)

- Even as Jesus was sent into the world by the Father, so Jesus' followers would be sent in the power of the _____.
(John 17:18; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8)

3. IT IS THE PEACE OF _____ BEING RECONCILED AND RESTORED. (20:24-29)

- Jesus' appearance assured that the same _____ which was in the other disciples would be in Thomas as well.
- Jesus' actions toward Thomas would preserve the spiritual _____ among His followers for which He had prayed. (John 17:11, 21, 23)
- Jesus' final _____ to Thomas is the continuing treasure His church is blessed to proclaim.