
SERMON NOTES April 18, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 20:19-23
Living Faith in the Living Lord
Pastor Mike

- I. From intellectual _____ to living _____
- a. The gap between _____ and _____
 - b. True faith changes your _____
- II. How the living Lord _____
- a. The doors were _____
 - b. They were _____
 - c. Jesus _____
- III. Life transforming _____ of living faith
- a. _____ in challenging times
 - b. _____ of resurrection life
 - c. A new _____ for life

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. John 20:8 tells us that John and Peter had seen the empty tomb and believed, and John 20:18 tells us that Mary Magdalene told the disciples about her interaction with the risen Lord, but John 20:19 tells us that the disciples were still hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews.
 - a. Why were they still controlled by their fear, even after they knew that Jesus had risen from the grave?
 - b. It is easy to criticize the disciples for their failure, but can we do the same thing? Can you live in fear as if the resurrection didn't really happen? If so, what are some areas of life where this can be true of your life?
 - c. What changed for the disciples? How did they escape from their fear? Why did seeing the living Lord change them?

2. In his message Pastor Mike talked about the difference between intellectual belief and living faith.
 - a. How would you describe the difference between these two ideas?
 - b. Pastor Mike talked about how fear and circumstances can reveal the gap between our beliefs and our faith. Have you seen this happen in your own life? If so, what circumstances did God use, and how did it expose a gap? How did God use that experience?
 - c. How can you know if you have an intellectual belief or a living faith?

3. John tells us that Jesus came to the disciples when the doors were locked, when they were afraid, and that he came and stood among them. What can and should we learn from the way Jesus came to the disciples, and apply to the way that he comes to us?

4. John 20:22 tells us that when Jesus appeared to his disciples, "*he breathed on them and said to them, 'receive the Holy Spirit.'*" Acts tells us that the disciples didn't receive the Holy Spirit until the day of Pentecost, and we have to ask, why did Jesus breathe on them?" What is the meaning of what Jesus says and does here?
 - a. How does Jesus fulfill the imagery and prophecy of Ezekiel 37, and the vision of the dry bones?
 - b. How does Jesus fulfill the imagery of Genesis 2:7, and God breathing life into man? How is Jesus giving us life?

5. In John 20:21 Jesus tells his disciples (and us), "as the father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
 - a. How did the Father send Jesus, and how is this similar to the way that Jesus is now sending us?
 - b. What is the purpose Jesus is giving us, and the mission he is sending us out to? How do you make this mission personal; what is the mission Jesus is sending you on? What does it look like in your life?