

Peace, Purpose, and Proclamation

John 20:21

March 8, 2026 | H.S.

Introduction

It's Easter evening. The tomb is empty, but the disciples' hearts are full of fear. They are locked behind closed doors, afraid of the authorities, unsure of the future, confused about what resurrection really means for them. The walls are thick. The air is tense. These walls aren't just stone and wood. They're made of anxiety, disappointment, shame, and uncertainty. And into that fearful, uncertain room, Jesus comes. Right there, inside the walls, Jesus shows up.

⇒ He doesn't scold them for hiding.

⇒ He doesn't rush them out the door.

⇒ He speaks one word first: "Peace."

But Jesus never intended for His followers to live behind walls forever.

Here are my 3 main points:

1. Jesus Meets Us Inside the Walls and grants peace

Before we are sent out, we are healed within. We receive His peace in our hearts.

2. Peace That Leads to Purpose

This commissioning in John 20:21 is the summation of 3 and a half years of ministry. Same thing with Matt 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47-48 or Acts 1:8. The whole purpose of training the disciples was to get them ready to be sent.

3. Purpose that leads to proclamation

⇒ Being sent doesn't always mean crossing oceans.

⇒ Sometimes it means crossing the room. Or...

⇒ Crossing the street.

⇒ Crossing a line of fear to speak hope.

