

Fear's Cure

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John 20:1-9, 19-23 ¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁹On 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!" ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (NIV 1984)

Fear: feeling of anxiety: an unpleasant feeling of anxiety or apprehension caused by the presence or anticipation of danger. (Bing Dictionary online).

- I. The **disciples** were lacking many things since Christ had been crucified.
 - A. They were lacking **understanding** of why the events were happening. V. 9
 - B. They lacked God's **peace**. V. 19 Peace does not mean lack of conflict. Shalom Aleikhem. They were walking in the flesh by trying to meet a spiritual need for peace by physical means, i.e. locked doors.
 - C. They lacked **hope**. V. 20
 - D. They lacked **a plan**. V. 21-23 They were called to be Apostles- sent ones.
- II. Jesus broke through their attempt at getting these things and **provided** what they really needed.
 - A. He gives them a **blessing**. V. 19, 21
Numbers 6:22-26 ²²The Lord said to Moses, ²³"Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "'The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.'"
 - B. He gives them **evidence** of His resurrection. V. 20
 - C. He gives them **a mission**. V. 21
 - D. He gives them the **Holy Spirit** and **authority**. V. 22

Q: What do you need right now?

A: Ask God to show you your real need.