

April 15, 2024

Meditation

What's Next?

After Jesus died, the disciples probably wondered, “What’s next? We’ve been following Jesus of Nazareth for the past several years, and now He’s dead! We thought He was the Messiah, after all He had such incredible teachings, did miracles, and He understood the Torah better than anyone. Where do we go from here? Are we next to die?”

The Biblical account goes like this, *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld. (John 20:19–23).*

Imagine their dismay at seeing Jesus in the room with them with the doors locked! The shock and surprise would have been palpable. Jesus first words to them was the same as the angels who had spoken so many times before in other parts of the Bible, “Peace be with you.”

He breathed on them, and gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. He gave them the gift of God to dwell within them. Jesus knew what was next. He knew He would only be on earth a short time before His ascension. He knew they would need the Holy Spirit to guide them as they continued to live out the lifegiving Gospel.

What about you, what is next for you? Are you entering a new season? Are you preparing for what is to come? We know earth is not our home for long. We know heaven is our home promised to all who believe in Jesus as their Savior. So, what are you doing with the time you have left here? Are you using it to teach the next generation about Jesus? Are you using it to share life? Or are you making choices that only benefit you and the people you think are worthy of your time? Are you living in fear of how the world will see you if you live the Gospel and in a counter culture way?

Jesus can give you the peace to be bold and comforted in living for Him regardless of the hardships that surround you. Trust in His power and His great gift of the Holy Spirit to embolden your resolve to live life to the full for Christ, regardless of what is next here on earth.

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