

## Unpacking the Preach

Date                      Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Sermon Title        Recover: Peace, Presence, Participate  
Bible Passage        *John 20:19-23*

### **Introduction**

Take time to read the passages again and reflect on the below questions:

- Are there any new or different things that the scriptures have spoken to you about?

### **Recapping the preach**

- The reality of how seasons of struggle and moments of crisis can impact our calling, make us question our purpose and knock our confidence.
- Remembering that Jesus KNOWS these struggles his disciples have, then and now, and that he enters into them to begin the recovery process.
- We cannot be sent without Jesus – his Holy Spirit being in us. The importance of being immersed in the Holy Spirit – Baptism.
- The promise of persecution coming the way of Christ's disciples cannot be met without the Holy Spirit – no Holy Spirit = falling away and avoiding the call through fear and suffering (*Eze 7:25*)
- Christ is the Prince of PEACE (*Isa 9:6*) Without PEACE in his PRESENCE there will be CONFLICT (*Jer 30:5*)
- Without his PRESENCE, PEACE will be ABSENT (*Luke 19:42*)
- In his ABSENCE there will be no PARTICIPATION in God's plans (*Jer 29:11; Prov 19:21; Rom 12:12*)
- The Holy Spirit brings the truth of God's word alive – past prophecies are understood, seen and experienced in Christ (*John 14:27; 16:20-22, 33*)
- PEACE, PRESENCE and PARTICIPATION = continual recovery, encouragement and the fulfilment of God's will for our lives, as opposed to.....CONFLICT, ABSENCE AND AVOIDANCE = continual struggle, discouragement and the fulfillment of the devils will for our lives....to be an ineffective church.

### Questions For reflection

- What, if any, similarities do you see from that locked room full of disciples, to your own life or that of the church during this last year?
- Paul tells the Colossians to let the PEACE of Christ rule in their hearts (*Col 3:15*) What do we find in our hearts that needs to be ruled – refereed if you will?
- Read *Isaiah 52:7*– would it matter if Isaiah had replaced ‘mountains’ with ‘green pastures’ or ‘quiet waters’ in relation to the rest of the verse? Discuss...
- Read The Psalm of David *34:18-19* in conjunction with Christ’s request to his Father in *John 17:15-18*– what do you see?
- In your experience what are the tell-tale signs (this maybe quite personal) of Christ being absent in your life (without PEACE) that hinders your ongoing recovery from life’s battles?

### Going Deeper

- An ineffective witness is the devils calling for a Christian, one where the Lord Jesus is absent and his people whether they realise it or not are struggling without PEACE and his PRESENCE – hence not PARTICIPATING in God’s calling and avoidance of sharing the good news of sins forgiven in Christ. The following short story highlights a lack of God breathed Spirit in God’s people....what must we do to ensure this isn’t happening to us?

*Gib Martin, is a pastor who was led to Christ when he was a 27-year-old atheist by a man named Charlie. Charlie had been an alcoholic carpenter for many years before he met Christ. After he got saved, he had a burden for the men who were just like he had been. So every day after work, he would stop at the bar where Gib also went after work. Charlie would drink coffee and share his life with those who would listen. Eventually, that’s how Gib came to faith in Christ.*

*But the sad part of the story is that none of the local churches would allow Charlie to associate with them because he went to the bar every day. Even though he wasn’t getting drunk—he wasn’t even having a beer—they didn’t like what he was doing. Even the church where Charlie directed Gib to go after his conversion wouldn’t allow Charlie to join.*

## **Response**

- An honest reflection of where each of us are in Christ.
- Do we need to seek forgiveness ourselves before we can preach forgiveness of sins to others?.
- Make space for Jesus.

## **Prayer pointers**

*Ps 34:18-19 “The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.”*

## **Additional resources:**

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>