

Early Easter morning the stone was rolled back and Jesus resurrected. But, **late in the day the disciples were still locked up.** John says (John 20:18-21) they were fearful of the Jewish authorities. Even after they hear the news from Mary Magdalene that Jesus had risen. The text does not say they rejoiced until Jesus stood in their midst.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord". . .¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the **doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders** . . . Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" . . .

Even as followers of Christ, **we can find ourselves locked up by our own fears of "what might happen."** There is plenty to fear. COVID, our jobs, the economy, our health, family issues, mass killings, you name it, we live in an unsafe world. Hearing that Jesus raised from the dead does not unlock our doors. They are not unlocked till Jesus is in our midst.

When we focus on our fears we will be fearful! When we focus on the Faithful One, we walk in faith!

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, **I am sending you.**" ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**"

When Jesus shows up He isn't there to point out their faults. The last time these men were with Jesus, they fell asleep when He asked them to pray. They denied knowing him in public. Except for John, all were cowards and were not at his crucifixion. Jesus had plenty of faults to point out. **INSTEAD, Jesus does Spiritual CPR,** He breathes the Spirit into them. He sends them into the midst of their fears but now filled with His Holy Spirit. **Jesus does not punish, He EMPOWERS!**

His Peace is not like the world's peace. His peace (presence) is experienced in the midst of our fears. Don't live in fear of what might be, or live in failure of what has been. Live in His fresh Holy Spirit Power. **Let Him Fill you with His Spirit and the doors will be unlocked to go and tell of His love and power to all who will listen!**



We've enclosed more details on the successful J.A.M. Camp that Lorna and O.A.T. Academy helped conduct in mid- March. We both had a great time speaking at Friendship Church in Prior Lake and Shakopee, MN on March 21 – "Loving Our Neighbor." We were greatly encouraged when we heard that several people asked Jesus into their lives as a result of our messages.



On Easter we had the privilege of Danelle and Gordon's family joining us for worship at our church in Orlando.

Prayer & Praises!

- Praise God for the successful J.A.M. Camp. Pray for the athletes that made decisions to follow Jesus.
- Praise God for how well the tutors have helped students through O.A.T. Academy.
- Pray that Lorna's coaching would help her athletes succeed as they finish the school year and open doors would grow larger for Jesus to be shared.
- Praise God for successful workshops and trainings Dirke has conducted over this past month.
- Pray for Dirke as he puts the finishing touches on the Cultural Intelligence class he will teach in May and June.