

v.19 The same day at evening: When the doors were shut: The sense is not only that the doors were shut, but secured and locked against any unwelcome entry. The idea is that the room was secure when suddenly Jesus came and stood in the midst. We aren't told *how* Jesus entered the room, but the sense is that it was not in any normal way and that He seemed to simply appear.

Peace be with you-as opposed to fear of the Jews

John 14:27 (NKJV) "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 16:33 (NKJV) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2Tim 1:7 (NKJV) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Eph 2:14 (NKJV) 14 For He Himself is our peace,

v.20 "Jesus did not come into their midst to show them a new thought, a philosophic discovery, or even a deep doctrine, or a profound mystery, or indeed anything but *himself*. He was a sacred egoist that day, for what he spoke of was himself; and what he revealed was himself." (Spurgeon)

v.21 **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you:** Jesus gave His disciples a *mission*, to continue His work on this earth. This was the commission to do what Jesus had already prayed for in John 17:18: *As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

This means that both then and now, disciples are sent after the pattern of the Father's sending of the Son. As previously observed on John 17:18, this means that disciples are *sent ones* – missionaries, after the Latin verb “to send.”

How was Jesus sent ?

v.22 **Receive the Holy Spirit:** Jesus gave His disciples the *Holy Spirit*, bringing new life and the ability to carry out their mission. It seems John noted a deliberate connection between this breathing on the disciples and when at creation God breathed life into man. This was a work of re-creation, even as God breathed life into the first man. This is where the disciples were born again.

v.23 **If you forgive the sins of any:** Jesus gave His disciples *authority* to announce forgiveness and to warn of guilt, as authorized by the Holy Spirit. We can say that Peter's preaching on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) was an exercise of this promised power to announce forgiveness of sins.

i. The connection with the reception of the Holy Spirit is important. “The words of Jesus emphasize that the Holy Spirit is not bestowed on the church as an ornament but to empower an effective application of the work of Christ to all men.” (Tenney)

ii. This lays down the duty of the church to proclaim forgiveness to the repentant believer, and the duty of the church to warn the unbeliever that they are in danger of forfeiting the mercy of God. We don't create the forgiveness or deny it; we announce it according to God's word and the wisdom of the Spirit.

v.24 **Thomas...was not with them when Jesus came:** We are not told why Thomas was not with them and Thomas was not criticized for his absence.- Thomas gets a bad reputation but remember in John 11:16 that he was ready to go and die with Jesus at Lazarus grave

Thomas was not criticized for his absence, but he still missed out. There was a blessing for those present that Thomas did not receive.

The unbelief of Thomas was strong, but honestly spoken. It was good that he refused to *pretend* to believe when he did not believe.

v.26 doors shut and locked- they now believed but had not been empowered by the Holy Spirit

v.27 **Do not be unbelieving, but believing:** Jesus clearly commanded Thomas to stop his unbelief and to start believing. Jesus was generous and merciful to Thomas and his unbelief, but Jesus did not praise his unbelief. Jesus wanted to move him from doubt and unbelief to *faith*.

The faith of Thomas becomes the climax of the book. Throughout the Gospel of John Jesus has triumphed over sickness, sin, evil men, death and sorrow. Now with Thomas, Jesus conquered unbelief.

These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: Though there were **many other signs**, John selected the signs presented in His Gospel to explain Jesus and bring readers to faith in Jesus as Messiah and God. This really isn't a book about *signs* – it is a book about Jesus. The signs are helpful as they reveal Jesus.