

Sent

John 20:19-21

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

This post-resurrection story finds the disciples hidden away in a locked room, terrified that they will endure the same plight as their friend Jesus. Jesus appears to them, speaks peace over them, and sends them out. This short passage teaches us three things:

- 1) Jesus finds us.** A locked door and fear did not keep Jesus from finding them. **When have you felt unfindable?** Meditate on [Romans 8](#) and be reminded that there is nowhere we can go where He won't find us.
- 2) Jesus restores us.** When we are hiding, it's usually because something has happened that has broken us. He speaks "shalom," a word more active than peace; to be made whole and restored. **How is Jesus seeking your "shalom?"**
- 3) Jesus sends us.** Taking a cue from [Jeremiah 29:4-7](#), God calls us too to seek the shalom and prosperity of the city to which they've been called. If we seek the flourishing of the world around us, our restoration can begin to happen. Just as Jesus knew their restoration was not going to be complete in that locked room, we are also sent to seek the restoration and flourishing of the world around us. **What does this mean practically for us?**

In order to find how God is sending us, it is important to examine the world around us through this lens:

- 1) Unexposed:** we don't know what we don't know. Covenant partners with organizations on the front lines of helping people flourish. Most of us stop here, at unexposed.
- 2) Involved:** On ramps are made easier through organizations Covenant is already partnered with. Our recently produced mission guidebook lists all of our local mission partners, with opportunities for immediate involvement.
- 3) Invested:** we are invested in the flourishing of the world around us, that's when we become alive. We are all called to be invested somewhere. Consider your gifts, vocation, resources. **Where is God calling you to become invested so you can become restored and more fully alive?**