

## **Our Vision**

John 20:19-21

### **KEY VERSES**

*19* 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." *20* After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. *21* Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

In wrapping up our three-session series exploring our vision statement, we look at how Jesus' commissioning of his disciples in John 20 pertains to us today. This passage from John 20 is one of three times in scripture that Jesus commissions his disciples: in [Matthew 28](#) Jesus commissions them to teach and baptize; in [Acts 1:8](#) they are commissioned to be Jesus' witnesses; and in this week's passage from John 20 where Jesus finds them scared in the upper room, he commissions them to be sent just as the father has sent him. **Have you ever received an official "commissioning?" How does commissioning elevate us and give us a higher sense of responsibility?**

To fully appreciate what it means to follow Jesus, we explore what it would actually be like to walk in his skin. **Reflect on the time before and between all his healings, miracles, and teaching. What would Jesus be thinking and how is he prompted to do things?**

In order to get into the psyche of Jesus so we can figure out how to best emulate him, Allen suggests a three-step process that Jesus employs with those he encounters:

**1) He listens:** Jesus pauses to listen to the woman who had bled for 12 years while walking through the chaotic crowd. He listens to her life, to that which was beyond her physical need for healing. **How can we mimic Jesus' listening power to the needs of our neighbors and city? Who might I find next to me during my daily life that I could help in some way because I listened?**

**2) He empathizes:** Jesus felt the sorrow of the cities who didn't recognize what they needed most. As the prophet Jeremiah proclaimed to the Babylonians, "seek the welfare of the city Babylon, in its shalom you will find your own." When we take the time to listen and empathize, we become ready to seek the shalom of the city with an awareness of what it actually needs. **Which is easier for you to do - to listen, or to empathize? When has listening to someone's story produced an even bigger blessing to you?**

**3) He acts:** We feel the overwhelming burden of the world's needs, just as the disciples did. The good news is that after we listen and empathize, we are not left alone with the burden of figuring out what to do next. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be Christ's hands and feet, as [St. Theresa of Avila](#) is credited with beautifully saying, "Christ has no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Christ has no body than ours." **What could be better**

**than a call where God involves us to take part in the redemption of the world? How might you this week take more time to listen and empathize and seek the next step God might be prompting you to take with the Holy Spirit's power?**