

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 12 April

sunnysidechurch

Bible passages: Acts 2.14a, 22-32 and John 20.19-end

Introduction

- Both readings eye witness accounts so that people believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing they may have life in his name (John 20.31)

'Peace be with you'

- Jesus offers his disciples the thing they need most: peace (cp John 14.27)
- Peace not a promise of safety but found in a new purpose

'Receive the Holy Spirit'

- Holy Spirit fills the disciples with the peace and joy they experience
- Empowers them for the mission Jesus gives them and how Peter able to preach his Pentecost sermon

'As the Father sent me'

- Message Jesus commissions them to share is the same one he brought
- Our need to recognise our need for Jesus and repent

Conclusion: 'stop doubting and believe'

- Relationship with Jesus at the heart of our faith and invited to follow him
- Good questions are a way of us growing in our faith but we are called to trust in Jesus and be his eyewitnesses

Some questions to discuss

1. Who are some of the people who have been important in telling you about Jesus?
2. Read John 20.19-end. What do you notice?
3. Why do you think that Jesus chooses this moment in John to commission the disciples?
4. Look back at what John's Gospel tells us about Thomas (11.16; 14.5; 20.24-29). Is it fair to call him 'doubting'? What word might you use instead?
5. Read Acts 2.14a, 22-32. In what ways does Peter's sermon show the empowering of the Holy Spirit?
6. How might you summarise the Good News about Jesus so you could be a witness to him?
7. Is there one thing that you are taking away from these passages? Is there something you need to do in response? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something God wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Jesus said, 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' (John 20.21-22)

Why not spend some time thanking God for the peace we have in Jesus and asking him to fill you afresh with his Spirit so you might trust him more?

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