



# When Jesus Comes Into the Midst

John 20:19-29

# Observations

- There is a phrase that John uses twice in his story of Jesus after the resurrection in verses 19 and 26 of John 20
- The disciples were afraid after Jesus' death, and hid together in a room behind locked doors for fear of the Jewish officials, who had just murdered their leader
- John says that Jesus: *"came and stood in the midst"* of them
- Jesus didn't mess around as they feared for their very lives and just, *"knock on the door,"* calling their names through the wall
- He knew that their faith was in trouble because of the circumstances that they were in (like ours at times)
- A "Life of Faith" doesn't, "weatherproof" us from a life of trouble, Matthew 7:24-27; *"What will happen to me?"*



# #1 His Presence at the Gathering of His Disciples Was a Blessing To Them, and Is To Us

- God blessed those disciples to get answers to their questions in the corporate setting of the assembly (10 disciples got the blessed answer; Thomas wasn't there)
- Point: The presence of Jesus in our personal lives doesn't substitute for the purpose of the "gathering together" of God's people; Jesus says He Is here when we meet


*"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20*

*"Let us think of ways to motivate one another through acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, and encourage one another, especially now as the Day of His return is drawing near."*

*Hebrews 10:24*







# There Are Also Times When We Need Jesus In Our Midst, Personally

- Hospitalizations with major surgery planned
  - Doctor's office visits concerning abnormal tests that have to be evaluated
  - Job Interviews that determine employment opportunities
  - When we lose our loved ones
  - Marriage decisions that can disrupt family structure (unilateral financial purchases)
  - Decisions on "aged parents" that have to be made
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## #2 The “Expectation of Change” In Our Lives Occurs When Jesus is In Our Midst

- **Though the disciples were hiding out of fear, they kept gathering together at weekly intervals**
  - **That fact tells me that there was a “sense of expectation” among them that something would happen to them**
  - **Those “gatherers” believed that Jesus would change their lives in some way!**
  - **They believed that Jesus didn’t bring them that far to just leave them (Isn’t that what we say and believe?)**
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# *Why Did You Come Here This Morning? (In the Presence of Jesus)*




- Did you come to church because that's your routine for Sundays? *"Your Tradition"*
- Did you come to church because "that's the Biblical thing to do?"

**Or**

- Did you come to church expecting that because Jesus is in our midst, God would speak to you and "change your way of thinking or your behavior" in some way? Psalm 119:130
- As you sit here in the presence of Jesus today, are you eager for Jesus to bless you with His peace, strengthen you with reasons to forge ahead in spite of your fears, and equip you with His power to carry out His purposes for you? (that's exactly what He did for those disciples)



# What God's Word Gives Us When Jesus is in Our Midst

- **Peace to settle our minds, Philippians 4:6,7**
  - **Strength with reasons to forge ahead in our circumstances, Psalms 119:130, Proverbs 4:7**
  - **Equipment to help us to carry out His will during our circumstances, Ephesians 6:10**
  - **Purpose that God's will is being satisfied in us, Philippians 2:13**
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## #3 Jesus Blessed His Disciples With More “Belief” While In Their Midst

- **The disciples were slow to believe in Jesus’ Death, Burial, and Resurrection, though they had plenty of evidence to believe**

**During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He would remind them again and again that He was going to die for their sins and then be resurrected back to life**

**Mary Magdalene and the other women had told them about the empty tomb and the angels that confirmed that He was alive; Luke 24:9-11**

**Peter and John had come back to the tomb and documented that the tomb was empty; John 20:3-10**

**Two of Jesus’ disciples who had met Jesus on the road to Emmaus had testified of their encounter with Jesus; Luke 24:13-32**











# The Word “Belief” Is Very Important Here!

- The word “Belief” is not just an intellectual agreement that “God exists”

- James, the disciple, pressed for more “belief” than that:

*You believe that there is one God? You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble. James 2:19*

Isaiah 14:12-14, notes that Lucifer lived in Heaven once

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- The belief that James is pressing for us, in scripture, is the kind of belief that results in obedience and action, one that motivates us to a certain consistent behavior
  - In retrospect, even though the disciples were not immediate in exhibiting this kind of belief (Matt. 26:56), they ended up giving their lives because of their belief.
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# What's the Personal Application?

***We Can Say That We Believe in Jesus and That We Believe the Bible, But That's Like "Education Without Demonstration!"***

***"But without faith it is impossible please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6***

**As Christians, Our Belief in Christ is Demonstrated By How We Consistently Live For Him**

**When Jesus Comes in the Midst of Our Lives, Our Faith is a Working Faith (James 2:24) (John 20:30-31)**





# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**                      **Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**                **Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**                      **Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**                      **Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**                          **Acts 8:38**

