

UNLOCK AND UNLEASH

John 20:19-29

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- According to our text, it had been about 48 hours, nearly two days, since the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.
- Further reading reveals that the disciples were hunkered down in hiding and from the content in the passage we will be able to ascertain their state of mind.
- But, two visits from Jesus will change all that.

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- In reading this account two phrases specifically caught my attention. They appear in the recital of John on both occasions when Jesus presented himself to the disciples.
- What are these two phrases and what insight can we gather about them from the two episodes we observe between Jesus and his disciples?

UNLOCK AND UNLEASH

- *John tells us that when Jesus appeared.....*

THE DOORS WERE LOCKED

- Our own examination of this repeated phrase would help us to see the miraculous nature of his entry into the assembly of his followers.
 - He just appeared out of no where.
 - He didn't have to open the locked door to get into the room.

UNLOCK AND UNLEASH

- *John tells us that when Jesus appeared.....*

THE DOORS WERE LOCKED

- The obvious reason and the one recorded in the gospel was *“for fear of the Jews.”*
 - These disciples were scared to death.
 - They were hiding because they probably thought that their deaths were next.
 - Analysis indicates fear, doubt, and despair.

UNLOCK AND UNLEASH

- *John tells us that when Jesus appeared.....*

HE SAID, “PEACE BE WITH YOU.”

- Jesus’s greeting would further substantiate the mental state of the disciples and what we already noted in the last slide.
- The response of the absent Thomas tells us this much.
- Jesus was there to take away the fear, doubt, and despair. In fact, he says this three times in our text.

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- *John tells us that when Jesus appeared.....*

HE SAID, “PEACE BE WITH YOU.”

- Three changes were occurring in the disciples:
 - Joy- vs. 20
 - Faith- vs. 27
 - Steadfast loyalty- vs. 28
 - Now it was time for them to be at peace and have courage.

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- *John tells us that when Jesus appeared.....*

HE SAID, “PEACE BE WITH YOU.”

- Based off what Jesus tells the disciples in vs. 21, he expected them to come out from behind the locked door.
- How many of us are struggling with the peace of God and continue hiding behind the locked doors of this church building. Jesus says unlock the door and unleash the truth about me. Christ the Lord, is risen today. HALLELUJAH!!!

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- Remember Philippians 4:4-7

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone, The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

