

Devotional Tools: SeniorWalk

Senior devotionals for the week following April 30 – May 1, 2011
John 20:19-31



The disciples are hiding in the upper room, fearing arrest by the Jewish leaders. Can you imagine what is going through their heads? They follow Jesus for three years, they run scared when he's imprisoned, they watch him die, they bury him, and now the body is gone. Isn't it amazing that they, like us, can listen, learn, hear, and try to apply all they've been told regarding Jesus Christ, and yet they do not fully grasp it?

Then Jesus appears, and says to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." He offers his pierced hands as proof of his true identity and gently nudges, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, the disciples back to the joy of the truth of his resurrection. Though still full of fear, they are now also filled with hope, and empowered to share God's grace.

But that is not all. Now, Jesus encourages the real work of the disciples. And, like the disciples, once we get beyond our past, and believe and accept the promise of eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ, we know that we are forgiven and deeply loved. Because of our faith, we, too, are prepared to be sent out for the Father's sake.

Being present in that room that day must have been an astonishing moment, an astonishing revelation that Jesus is all about moving forward, not reliving the past. Never does Jesus remind them of failure. Instead,

he brings peace and offers hope. Our hope is that, through our wounds and pains, we discover who we are and move beyond ourselves to share the good news.

Jesus brings "shalom," peace to you. He reminds the disciples, and each of us, that he is peace among us, the children of God. He brings us wholeness, justice and blessing; a wholeness that provides healing, justice that helps us transform, and blessings that take death away.

As we receive these gifts and the breath of the Holy Spirit, Jesus tells us that we cannot stay behind locked doors. We are called to bring the power of God's Spirit and forgiveness to the world. Make a difference by the way you live. Be filled with grace that spills over to others. Be "shalom" in your corner of the world. That is how we can make a difference for God and be transformed like the disciples, filled with Jesus' peace, God's grace, and the power to make a difference.

Lord, through your holy breath you have filled us. You cherish us as your children. Move in and around us, filling us with your peace and presence. Secure us in the knowledge that the message for the disciples is the same message for each of us: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." Amen.