The Risen Lord and the Apostles
John 20:19-23
November 8, 2026

The peace of God can turn fear into gladness and finally service.

What calms your fear of your monsters?

The Fear-Filled Disciples

Where does the risen Lord find His disciples?

Why are they afraid of the Jews?

Should they be afraid of Jesus? (John 16:31-33)

Does Jesus rebuke them?

Are you sometimes afraid of the presence of Jesus?

The Peace of the Risen Lord

Why is the sudden presence of Jesus so shocking?

How does Jesus calm them?

Is "Peace be with you" a common, meaningless Hebrew greeting?

What does goodbye mean?

Is this peace a wish or a given? (John 14:27)

Why does Jesus show them His wounded hands and scarred side?

From Disciples to Apostles

Jesus is sending them into service, giving them a mission.

Why does Jesus repeat, "Peace be with you"? v. 21

Equipping the Apostles

Is this John's Pentecost or a partial giving of the Spirit?

Do Christian ministers have authority to withhold forgiveness? v. 23 (compare Luke 17:3-4)

"The same sun which melts wax hardens clay." Charles Spurgeon

But the sun does melt wax!

Meditation

"Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God, as when the Anglican burial service inters the corpse 'in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Optimism is a wish without warrant; Christian hope is a certainty, guaranteed by God Himself. Optimism reflects ignorance as to whether good things will ever actually come. Christian hope expresses knowledge that every day of his life, and every moment beyond it, the believer can say with truth, on the basis of God's own commitment, that the best is yet to come."

J. I. Packer

