

Now What? – Part 2

We are busy with series that we started last week entitled ...

- He came he died, NOW WHAT?

The scripture that we are working from is in John 20

John 20:19–20 ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among ...

Is there anything that we can learn from this passage

- As to what Jesus said and did that could have been helpful to them
- And can maybe be helpful to us today.

Last week we looked at what he did ...

1. The doors were locked.
2. They were afraid.
3. He stood in their midst.

Today we are going to take a look at what he said ...

John 20:19–23 ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **“Peace be with you!”**

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, **“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”**

²² And with that he breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”**

What did he say? in that first encounter as the Risen Christ.

He said three things.

- We are going to look at one of them today
- And two next time.

And when you analyze the three things that he said to them. ...

- You will see that He is giving them in affect three gifts.

1. A gift of Peace
2. A gift of Power
3. A gift of Purpose

And in many ways these three things are The Sum of Life.

1. Do you have peace with God, yourself and others?
2. Do you have “the power” to do what needs to be done in your life?
3. Do you have a purpose that is really satisfying from beginning to end?
 - That takes you into eternity knowing that you spent your life well?

Peace, Power and Purpose.

- The opposite of Peace is Conflict.
- The opposite of Power is Weakness
- The opposite of Purpose is Aimlessness.

And a lot of lives are destroyed or goes to waste through ...

- Conflict, weakness and aimlessness.

And Jesus didn't come into the world to destroy your life.

- But to give you life.

He came to bring peace and power and purpose ...

- So that lives will not be destroyed or ruined by ...
- A lack of peace, a lack of power and a lack of purpose.

So let's unpack the first gift in that first thing that he said.

The Gift of Peace

John 20:19 ¹⁹ ... Jesus came and stood among them and said, **“Peace be with you!”** ²⁰

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed

when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Again Jesus said, **“Peace be with you!”**

Now I think there is reason why the 1st gift that he gives them is, Peace.

- Because, before you think of doing anything with power ...
- Or accomplishing anything with purpose.
- You have got to have peace with God.

Peace with God needs to come first.

- Because if it doesn't, you are going to start thinking that ...
- Doing things with "Power" and the accomplishing with "Purpose"
- Will bring you Peace or lead you to Peace.
- BUT it doesn't.

Peace does not come from Power of Purpose.

- But from Jesus himself.

As Paul said in [Ephesians 2:14](#) "he himself is our peace ..."

Jesus was offering them peace ...

- And I believe that he was offering it both to them and us.
- In at least 5 ways.

He is offering ...

1. Peace between us and himself.

Remember the context of our scripture.

- Jesus comes to these men who have all abandoned him 2 days before.
- And when they saw him, they had every reason to believe ...
- That he is coming with a whip to scold them.

They have every reason to believe that their relationship with him ...

- Was now "ruined", or at least very broken.
- Especially Peter, who denied him three times.
- And even called down curses swearing ...
- "I don't know the man!" [Matt. 26:74](#)

But, instead of scolding them ...

- The first thing out of Jesus mouth is, PEACE ...
- "Peace be with you."

That must have landed on them as sweet as the words ...

- “Today you will be with me in paradise” ...
- Landed on the thief on the cross.
- “I am coming to you in Peace.”

But how could he offer them peace, after what they have done?

John 20:19 ¹⁹ ... Jesus came and stood among them and said, **“Peace be with you!”** ²⁰

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.

In other words, I am the one who died.

- I am the one you abandoned.
- I am the one who was pierced for your transgressions ...
- I am the one who was crushed for your iniquities.
- As it says in Isaiah 53
- And the punishment that brought you peace was on me.
- By my wounds, you have been healed.

It is as if Jesus is saying, that the reason I can offer you peace is ...

- Because your sins against me are covered by my blood and my death.
- So, I come in peace.

Could it be that Jesus is coming to you with the same words today ...?

- Could it be that he is saying to you also, “I come in Peace?”

Maybe you are in a place where you feel that all hope is lost ...

- Because of sin that you are in now OR ...
- Things you have done in the past.

Maybe ...

- ...

I believe that Jesus is offering you peace.

- No matter who you are or what you have done.
- If you surrender your life to his Rule and his Reign.
- And you embrace him as your greatest Treasure, Joy and Delight.

He offers you peace in and through himself.

- Because if you are “in him.”
- Your sins will not be held against you and you will be protected ...

- From the wrath of God on “The Day of Judgment.”

And all of this is made possible through his death on the cross.

“I bring you Peace.”

So, he offers us Peace between himself and us.

2. Peace between us and God the Father.

In Eph. 2 Paul is speaking a predominately Gentile church in Ephesus saying ...

Ephesians 2:11-12 ¹¹ ... remember that formerly (as in, before you were in Christ) you who are Gentiles by birth ... ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, (you were not in him) excluded from citizenship in Israel (the people of God) and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Remember that there was a time where you were not in Christ.

- You were separate from Christ.
- You were excluded from citizenship in Israel.
- Excluded from the people/ family of God.

You were foreigners to the covenants of the Promise.

- In other words the promises that God made to his people ...
- In and through his covenants with them ...
- Were not applicable to you.
- You were, without hope and you were without God in this world.

Colossians 1:21 ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

...

Ephesians 2:13-14 ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he (Jesus) himself is our peace ...”

Jesus is offering us peace between himself and the Father.

- And through him (Jesus) we are able to be adopted ...
- As sons and daughter by God, into the family of God.
- ...

I come to offer you peace.

- Peace between you and the Father.

3. Peace between us & others who are “in Christ.”

Again, we are going to read from Ephesians 2.

- The context here is that Paul is addressing the tension ...
- And prejudice between the two major groups, Jews and Gentiles.
- The people of God and Pagans.

Ephesians 2:13–16 ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one (Jews and Gentiles) and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ...

¹⁵ ... His purpose (in doing this) was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body (the body of Christ/ people of God) to reconcile both of them (Jews and gentile) to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

...

Ok, so “in Christ Jesus”

- You who were once far away, have been brought near.
- Jesus has made peace between you and himself and you and God.

And by doing that, by making peace with Jews and peace with Gentiles.

- Peace with black, white and coloured.
- Rich, poor, introvert, extrovert.
- Lover of soccer, lovers of rugby.


By making peace of here and peace over there ...

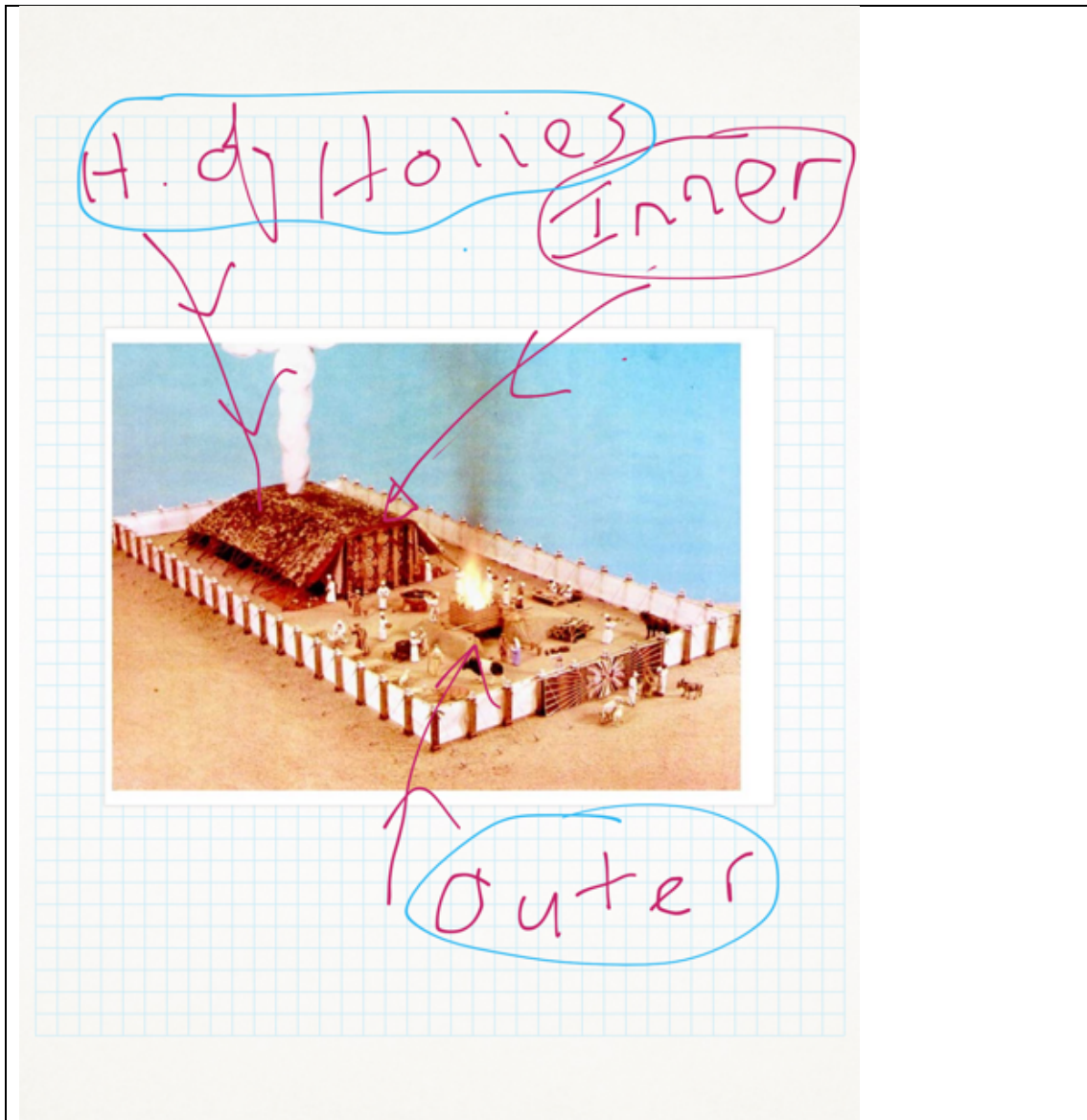
- He has brought all together ...

- By putting to death their hostility on the cross.
- And to create “in himself” one “new humanity.”
- Who would be at peace with God, with him and with one another.

4. Peace between us and our own souls

Explaining how the tabernacle worked (image of tabernacle attached) Die idee is om dan die woorde met pyl'kies op die “image” aan te dui.

1. Outer court (all of Israel)
 2. Inner court (all Priests)
 3. Holy of Holies (High Priest, Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement)
 4. Pillar of cloud
- 



Hebrews 9:12-14 ¹² He (Jesus) did not enter (the holy of holies, in heaven) by means of the blood of goats and calves; (he was not allowed “because of” the blood of goats and calves) but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all (meaning one time for all time) by his own blood, thus (through that) obtaining eternal redemption... For everyone who would be “in Him.”

¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer (a young female cow that has not borne a calf) sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

So, if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer.

- Made the priests ceremonially (or outwardly) clean.
- So that they would not die when they entered the presence ...
- Of our holy God.

¹⁴ How much more then ... (if they were spared, because of the blood of an animal, that only made them ceremonially clean). How much more then ... will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death... (or, from the deadness of our previous ways)

If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer.

- Were able to make you ceremonially clean.

How much more will the blood of Christ ...

- Who offered himself unblemished to God.
- Cleanse your conscience from acts that led to death.

...so that we may serve the living God!

The “sin” removed by these ceremonial rituals ...

- Was for “ceremonial defilement.”
- And the cleansing offered by it was only temporary.
- And through it all the conscience remained untouched.

So these Old Testament sacrifices could not remove guilt ...

- And provide inward cleansing.

By contrast, the blood that Jesus shed on the cross ...

- Does affect your conscience.
- It does remove moral guilt.
- And it does bring forgiveness and peace to sinners.
- SO THAT ... you may serve the living God.

Is there anything sweeter ...

- Than a clear, clean, non-condemning conscience?

AND is there anything more horrible and troublesome than ...

- Day after day and night after night ...

- Hearing a voice in your heart saying, your are in sin ...
- And God will NEVER forgive you.
- And you will NEVER make it to heaven.

And what makes it worse ...

- **Is that what the voice is saying, is actually true!**

You are in Sin, you are guilty.

- You are not forgiven and you are not going to make it to Heaven.

Is there anything worse than having to live with that burden ...?

- Every single day of your life.

What the author of Hebrews is saying is ...

- That it does not have to be that way!

The blood of Christ, his death on the Cross can fix that

- For his blood purifies our conscience.
- From acts that leads to death ...
- **So that** we may serve the living God.

Often, people just can't forgive themselves for their sins of the past.

- That is what Good Friday is for.

Jesus died for sins so that **"...there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."** **Romans 8:1**

Jesus died not only for him to forgive your sin.

- But, also in order for you to forgive yourself.

Does that mean that the peace that he gives takes away ...

- The pain and the consequences of our sin.

Unfortunately, not.

- Peace doesn't mean that past sins cease to be painful.
- It means that they **cease to be paralyzing**.

And, although the pain caused by my own sin might NOT ...

- Be taken away immediately.
- The penalty for my sin, is immediately, taken away in Christ.

- It is gone! It is Over!

For “... there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” **Romans 8:1**

And here is the beauty of it.

- Even though the pain might remain.

When the penalty is removed, the paralysis is broken.

- And you are enabled to move forward with life ...
- While the pain gradually gets better.

And all of that is made possible by Jesus death for us on the cross.

So, he gives us peace with ourselves.

5. He gives us Peace in the World

Currently we live in a world without peace.

- Whether it be crime, political strife, prejudice, sickness or disease.

Colossians 1:19–23¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Jesus),²⁰ **and through him** (Jesus) **to reconcile to himself** (God) **all things**, (everything that has been estranged from him, everything that has been broken) **whether things on earth or things in heaven by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**

...

In **Isaiah 9:7** the prophet talking about Jesus said, **Of the greatness of his government** (his rule and reign) **and peace there will be no end.**

He is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and when he died ...

- He purchased a new heavens and a new earth where ...

“There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain ...” Rev. 21:4

AND ALL THE HORRORS OF ...

16 year old Raped, strangled and murder in Tokia forest last year.

The 50+ people killed every day in SA

Khalid Masood last month purposefully ramming his car into pedestrians

- In Westminster, London killing 3 in the process
- And then stabbing and an unarmed police officer.

230 people killed in France by Jihadist over the last two years.

OR ... Steve Stevens murdering a 74-old man this week.

- To spite his ex-girlfriend and then post it the killing on Facebook.

OR ... the Policemen killed this week in Paris by a Jihadist

OR ... Kori Ali Muhammad killing 3 innocent people in a shooting rampage ...

- In Fresno, California this week ...
- Because of his hatred for people of a different colour.

OR ... ISIS or Boko Haram

OR ... Civil War in Syria

OR ... OR ... OR ...

All of that is going to be OVER!!!

And Jesus set that day (when it will all be over) into motion ...

- By dying on a Cross.
- He bought the new earth and he bought the new heavens.
- For all who are "in him."

And as we are working toward that day, he will one day ...

- Break into history (in due time) and make it happen, just like that.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord (in the new heavens and new earth) forever.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

And what I believe he offered them and he is offering us today is ...

1. Peace with Jesus
2. Peace with the Father
3. Peace with others in Christ
4. Peace with ourselves and ...
5. Peace with the world.

That is an amazing achievement ...

- And the way that you receive it is by being in Christ.
- It is a gift!

Romans 5:1–2 ¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through (or in) our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace (or favor) in which we now stand.

Being in Christ, will bring you peace.