



Because Jesus Rose Again **John 20:19-25**

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost (John 20:21-22—KJV).

*So Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them and *said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:21-22—NASB).*

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:21-22—NRSV).

If Jesus had not been raised from the dead, the defeated disciples would have met one last time and then gone their separate ways. John would have taken Mary home as Jesus had told him until Jesus’ brothers came for her. With shattered dreams, the disciples gathered to pray one more time. Perhaps they worried that God would forsake them as He had forsaken Jesus. They probably lamented their disgrace before their family and friends. They did not try to call Jesus back from the dead as Saul had tried to call back Samuel (1 Samuel 28). They knew better than that, but they completely forgot that Jesus had foretold His resurrection from the dead. So, when Jesus appeared to His disciples, they were shocked, so shocked He needed to bless them twice to give them peace. Jesus’ resurrection was a completely unexpected way for God to answer give them His guidance. At His reappearance, Jesus told them simply to do as He had done. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, the once scattered, fearful disciples would never have been willing to risk their lives, pick up their crosses, and go joyfully off to martyrdom. But here we see another secret of their courage: Jesus sent His disciples out as He had been sent out—in the power of the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit within them verified their message, and over the centuries millions have come to know personally that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead.

Thinking Further

1. . How many disciples saw Jesus on Resurrection Sunday?
2. How did Jesus get into the locked house?
3. What did Jesus show His disciples?
4. What blessings did Jesus give His disciples?
5. How did Jesus give His most important gift to His disciples?