

Scripture Reference: John 20:19-21

Date: December 29 2012

Title: "So I Send You"

Focus: Life shaped by a God encounter.

Intro:

1. There is witnessed in the Bible times when God directly intervenes in lives of humanity. These occurrences follow a similar pattern, first God appears, an event that frightens the people. In their terrified state, God offers comfort. Finally, He makes an announcement, which is the reason for His appearance.

2. The appearance of Jesus to the disciples after His resurrection is one of these events and follows the pattern.

3. These moments, as demonstrated with Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, The shepherds, Peter, and Paul are life altering. The people are forever changed; some even emerge with new names.

Body:

God Appears – Make No Mistake

- This is the first post-resurrection appearance of Jesus to His disciples. Everyone is present except Thomas.

- The doors are locked, the shutters shut, and the location kept a secret. But, suddenly Jesus stands among them.

- Jesus chose this time and place to appear in a manner they were not accustomed to in order to demonstrate His glory.

- What had been veiled before was now on public display. Jesus manifests His divine person.

- He demonstrates His divinity by the laws of nature no longer limiting Him and His imparting of the Holy Spirit to them.

The Disciples Were Afraid – For Good Reason

- The disciples had *natural* reason to be afraid:

The religious leaders may have wanted them and after three years with Jesus, the future direction of their lives was uncertain.

Uncertainty overflowed.

- They also had a *supernatural* reason, the One they had watched being crucified and die stood before them!

- God is a source of stability and comfort.

- But, His presence is also reason for godly fear and confusion, a dilemma He then resolves.

Comfort is Given – By Him

- Jesus' first words were, "*Peace be with you,*" which He repeats twice. This corresponds to the Hebrew, "*Shalom.*" It conveys a sense of wellness and wholeness.

- We might say, "*Everything is okay, calm down, pull yourself together.*"

- The peace and completeness God promises cannot be found with anyone else.

John 14:27 "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*"

An Announcement is Made – That Changes Life

- When God makes Himself known, the general response is, "*What does this mean?*"

- God answers that question. His replies have sent many a person on a different life trajectory than they were on before.

- It proved no different for His disciples then, or now.

- What was Jesus' announcement?

They were an extension of what God had begun in time past. The reason for which "*the Father has sent*" Jesus, is the reason for which Jesus was sending them.

- These disciples' lives, and all of creation, would forever be changed.

Closing:

1. God either has, or desires to make Himself known to you.

2. If He has, what was your response and did He resolve the crisis His appearance created?

3. Has this encounter resulted in life taking a different track than it was on before?

4. If not, you need to examine whether you have encountered God.