

Peace be with you

John 20:19

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

The disciples were in a bad way. Jesus had suffered and died and they had gone into hiding. Our verse tells us that it was because they feared the Jews who had crucified Jesus. While it doesn't say so, they were probably also very confused and filled with guilt because they had forsaken Jesus in His greatest hour of need.

These days as we have been asked to separate ourselves because of the Coronavirus, we, too, may have a great amount of anxiety. As we may become isolated and alone with our thoughts, we, too, may fret over some of our short-comings.

In the middle of the disciple's misery Jesus came with the offer of peace. Peace is the opposite of fear. The peace offering is so much more than absence of war or conflict. The Hebrew *shalom* describes the full condition of well-being that comes when God and man are at one. Fear can be set aside because of the one who is present.

In the midst of our uncertainty, Jesus, too, stands in our midst and offers the peace that the world cannot give and which can quiet our daily worries. BUT, most important Jesus can give full confidence in our eternal well-being. This peace has all to do about salvation of the whole person.

As we are apart from each other we are not forgotten because Christ is in the middle of wherever we may be. In the Scriptures Jesus comes to us with His assurances of hope and wellbeing with all of our physical needs as well our spiritual calm.

Lord God creator and preserver of everything on the earth, be with me as I am unsure of what is coming next. Help me to depend on you for all of my needs especially my eternal future. Help me to read your Word and use the devotion books I have to hear your word of comfort and confidence. Amen