

John 20b

19 It is the evening of the same day that He appeared to Mary M. The men seemed not to believe her story, with the exception of John. Mark 16:14 They are in fear that the Jewish leaders will be coming for them next, so the door is locked, and there in their midst stands Jesus! They had to be shocked, dumbfounded, unsure of what they were seeing. Luke 24:36-37 Jesus greets them with a word to still their hearts, "Peace (shalom) be unto you." It was the common Eastern greeting and meant, "May you be saved from trouble." It means: "May God give you every good thing."—Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) But Jesus use of it took it to a higher level. When we are in turmoil, full of fear, we need to hear Jesus speak these same words to us. He can say that because He has just paid for our sins in full and conquered death and hell.

20 And here is the proof that we should be at peace, the love scars that purchased our redemption were shown to them. I believe we will see them in heaven, a permanent reminder of the price paid for sin. John saw them in heaven (Revelation 5:6). Now they are overjoyed! It is a physical Jesus who breathes, eats, and can be touched. Luke 24:38-43

21-22 This is a form of the Great Commission. It begins again with "Peace be unto you." When we have peace with God, peace in our hearts, then we are ready to go out and serve. We are sent in the same way Jesus was sent. He went out into the world as a foreigner and stranger, sharing the heavenly perspective of life. He rebuked evil of those who knew better and had patient compassion for those caught up in sin. He was wise and careful, yet obedient and bold. He represented the Father and only did what He saw and only spoke what He heard in the way He heard it. That is our mission, obedience to the Holy Spirit. Luke 24:46-49

Spirit, wind, and breath are the same word in Greek and Hebrew. Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:9 I don't think they were filled with the Spirit at that moment, but as Luke puts it, they were told to wait for the Spirit. I think Jesus breathing upon them was an illustration of what they were to experience, His very own Spirit, life in abundance.

23 What an awesome responsibility! He has just said He is sending them as He is sent and that they are to receive His Spirit. I don't understand why people would try to make this say anything less than what it says. When we are filled with His Spirit, we are His representatives in the world. We can forgive or retain sins because it is His judgment call with in us. Just as Jesus said He only judged as the Father showed Him, so sent as He was sent, we do the same. John 5:30; 8:16

24-25 Thomas, we like to call him the doubter but he was the one who suggested they go to die with Jesus. John 11:16 Those folks from Missouri insist on seeing, the show me state. Maybe that's why they call it misery. But before we get too hard on him, maybe we should look at it from the same perspective as we saw Mary M. If he was so wrapped up in following Jesus, and suddenly He was murdered, anyone would have a hard time putting your heart back into it. He had to be sure. Judge Him by what he does when he is sure, not by his desire to be sure. That is actually a noble thing. We want truth, and God is gracious to be patient with us and help us be sure. God desires our faith, but not blind faith. Our faith must be in what is real, not just anything that comes along with great claims.

26 A week later, must be Sunday again, the new day of worship. This time Thomas is there. He greets them with the same greeting again. This is the third time in this chapter. Repetition shows importance. What should we learn from Jesus request for peace to be with us? Do you think the disciples were still troubled? Why aren't they on their way to Galilee as He asked them to meet Him there? Isaiah 26:12; 54:10

27-28 Jesus is the silent listener to every conversation! He heard Thomas declaration of doubt and he hears our struggles with belief. The wonderful thing is that He does not condemn us for it. He assists us in coming to the right conclusions. Thomas realized Jesus was not only his Lord or Master, but also his God. Isaiah 25:9

29 Thomas missed out on a greater blessing, but at least he is now sure and can put his heart back into following Jesus. The one who is more blessed is you and me, for we have not seen and yet have believed. John 4:48, 1Peter 1:8

30 -31 I wonder if in heaven we will get to see the full life of Jesus on earth like a movie. We'll be so awed with His presence I doubt we'll even want to. He did so many things that could be told, but what is passed on to us is what we need. The Spirit watched over and kept the writings His children needed to guide them into truth. What we do have of these eyewitness' accounts, should be enough for us to come to the conclusion that He is God. We should come to a belief that He died for us, rose again in victory over death, and sends us out AS He was sent. Romans 15:4; 1John 5:13