**Resurrection Ministry**

***19****On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+20&version=ESV#fen-ESV-26875c)*] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”****20****When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.****21****Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”****22****And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.****23****If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” (John 20:19-23, ESV)*

 Jesus’ resurrection brings us believers into spiritual ministry.

 Christ is Risen from the dead; Blessed is the resurrection of Christ! What a joy it is to remember and to celebrate our Lord’s victory over death! Along with that victory, a new world opens up for us – a new purpose for the sake of the Lord. Today we’re going to be talking about that purpose – specifically, we’re going to examine the ministry that each believer inherits from the Lord because of this victory. Again, Jesus’ resurrection brings us believers into spiritual ministry. Let’s see how that is…

 The resurrection of Christ is an invitation to us to rejoice in His victory and also to advance His mission. When the disciples were worried about the events of Thursday and Friday past, God stopped their fear by His self-revelation. When they still feared the Jewish authorities and the danger of being arrested, God suddenly proved Himself to them. It was not enough that they had that fear – but most likely, they were also a bit confused, because Mary Magdalene had just told them the story of how Jesus was not dead at all, and that she had seen Him just prior to coming to their house. In a word, there was turmoil within them – because their expectations had been left completely unfulfilled and, on the contrary, they found themselves facing defeat.

It was in that impossible moment that the Lord Jesus entered the scene and put a stop to all fear, doubt and chaos with one word – one “*hello*”. The Risen Christ said “*hello*,” which was the word “*peace*” or “*shalom*” – and the work of the enemy stopped right at that moment. After that, He proved the veracity of His resurrection to them – He showed them His hands and side; and the disciples now were seeing proof of that which just a little while ago they were going to forget. Jesus didn’t stop at that, however; the disciples’ lot was not just joy – but He also said, “*As the Father has sent me, so do I send you.”* In addition, as a seal of approval on their future ministry as well as a continuation of His accompaniment of them, He breathed on them and invited them to receive His Spirit, the Holy Spirit which resided in Him, Who would give them the most important ministry, that of forgiving and withholding sin. Of course, if the Holy Spirit was going to make possible to most difficult job for them, then the remaining physical miracles to be done would be much easier, given that they would be the fruit of being led by the Holy Spirit anyway.

A medical student was in the operating room waiting to watch a great surgeon's work. The surgeon's assistant failed to come and the surgeon called this student to help him. "*How proud I was*," he said, "*to help this great man save a life*." Jesus has called us to help Him save others, and we should be proud of the honor, glad that we can help to save others to everlasting life. A great minister said that he praised God for the honor and privilege of helping to save the world.

 What about us, then? We, like those disciples, have accepted the Risen Jesus. He came to us in our moment of chaos, in our ignorance or youth and said, “*Peace, Hello*” to us. He said to us believers on that day, “*As the Father sent me, so do I send you.*” And then, *“Receive the Holy Spirit and the service of forgiving and withholding sin.*”

 So, how does this happen? Simply, because we are all sent ones. We are sent to serve, to love, to forgive, and to be and to work like Jesus did in this world. Therefore, when we are filled with the joy of the Resurrection, let us remember to share that joy through our service, so that the Lord’s work advances and others also encounter the Risen Jesus through faith.

 The resurrection of Christ is an invitation to us to rejoice in His victory and also to advance His mission. Jesus’ resurrection brings us believers into spiritual ministry.

 May this joy of the Resurrection impel us to bear witness of the Lord to others, that they also would rejoice and obey Him. Christ is Risen from dead – blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! Amen.