

# Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

April 11, 2021 — Easter 2

*“...Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”  
- John 20:19b -*

It is Easter evening. Jesus has been raised from the dead. He has broken forth from the tomb. A couple of the disciples were at the tomb previously and saw things firsthand. They came back to the other disciples and reported what they saw. However, the other disciples did not believe what they heard about Jesus rising from the dead. Perhaps this was just too good to be true? Maybe it was a reaction to grief? Just a crazy dream? It seemed way too strange to be believed.

Where are the disciples now? They are hunkered down behind closed doors hiding like frightened rabbits. They were the ones who had witnessed all of Jesus’ work, his miracles, his very words and presence, and where are they? They are behind locked doors, gripped with fear. We know what death, defeat, and disappointment can do to us. We try some new venture and fail at it. When that happens, we become fearful and think that we just don’t have what it takes to succeed. When a loved one dies we have a tendency to think, “What is going to become of me?” Death, disappointment, and defeat all lead to fear. The disciples are gripped by fear. They are thinking, “What will become of us? Will those same murderous authorities do to us as they did to Jesus? We hoped Jesus would free us from the tyranny of the Romans, but now look what has happened.”

Now there is nothing left, only fear. And it was to these fearful disciples that Jesus shows up. He miraculously slips through the locked doors. He reassures them with, “Peace be with you.” He breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. How is it that these fearful, disheartened, disappointed disciples become courageous and empowered to proclaim the Good News to the whole world? Jesus. The risen Christ found a way to get through to them. He appeared to them, stood among them, and blessed them. These frightened followers were transformed into believing, active disciples.

You might be feeling fear and disappointment, but remember that when you are about to give up hope, you have a future. Whenever you are gripped with paralyzing fear, it’s then that Jesus comes to you, reassures you, and breathes new life into you. That’s our hope you see, that Jesus comes to us! Amen.

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