



The Breath of Jesus
“Life in His Name” Series

John 20:19-23, p.906

November 3, 2019

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage God explains the blessed ministry assigned to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Text: John 20:19-23

- 1) Jesus comforts the church by announcing the peace of God (vv. 19-20).

- 2) Jesus commands the church to participate in the mission of God (v. 21).

- 3) Jesus empowers the church by giving the Spirit of God (v. 22).

- 4) Jesus commissions the church by giving the ministerial authority of God (v. 23).

Some applications:

(a) The church has a spiritual authority over its members in doctrine, membership, and discipline.

*-This is **congregationalism**: As assigned by Christ and through the Spirit the members have a foundational authority to establish a local church.*

(b) The church selects some of its own members to be servant-leaders over the ministerial operations of the church.

*-This is the **office of pastor-elder**: select members of a congregation are assigned to have the functional authority to shepherd a local church.*

*(c) This, then, is **elder-led congregationalism**: each local church is led by the elders while being ruled by the congregation under the Spirit-empowered Lordship of Christ.*

Response

The resurrected Jesus comforts us with his peace, commands us to participate in his mission, empowers us through his Spirit, and commissions us with his authority.

Small Group Questions for John 20:19-23

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- 1) Starter Question: What kind of spiritual authority does a local church have?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does the mysterious entrance of Jesus in v. 19 intend to teach us?
- 4) V. 19 tells us the disciples feared the Jews. What do you think the disciples were feeling and experiencing after the death of Jesus but before he appeared to them?
- 5) How does Jesus' twice-stated greeting of "peace" mean so much more after his death and resurrection (vv. 19-20)?
- 6) How does v. 21 make a demand on the every church and every Christian to participate in the mission of God, and what does this mission look like?
- 7) What is the significance of v. 22, specifically the "breathing/blowing of Jesus" (for help, read Genesis 2:7 and Ezekiel 37:9)?
- 8) Based upon v. 23 (and your notes), what does the authority of a congregation (members) look like in practice?
- 9) Based upon v. 23 (and your notes), how is a church *led* by its pastor-elders but *ruled* by the congregation?
- 10) How is church membership not only important for an individual disciple, but also for a church to properly minister as a local church?

Further study this week: Genesis 2 on the breath of new life (Mon); Ezekiel 37 on the breathing to life a new people (Tues); Isaiah 53 on Jesus' wounds healing us (Wed); Matthew 18:15-20 on the authority of the congregation (Thurs); Acts 20, especially v. 28, on the authority of the office of pastor-elder (Fri).