

## From the Tomb to the Upper Room

### The Mystery of the Breath

050425

#### Opening Reflection:

“Before we dive into today’s message, I want us to take a moment and reflect upon last week’s message ... Last week – we stood with Mary in that sacred place outside the tomb – where she mistook Jesus for the gardener ... This wasn’t a mistake on her part – but a divine encounter not only for her – but for us today ... Jesus has risen – and by His Spirit – desires to be the Gardener of our soul.

#### So, let me ask you:

What did you receive from your engagement with the Gardener?

Did you sense Him gently tilling the soil of your heart?

Did you allow Him to pull out any weeds of worry, fear, or unbelief?

Did He plant something new in your heart since last Sunday?

This journey we’re on—from the tomb to the upper room—isn’t just a teaching series to fill the space between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost ... It’s a divine invitation into a spiritual transformation—a mystical awakening for those who are willing to receive.

#### Think about this:

Jesus had just 40 days to impart the depth of His resurrected life into His disciples—men who would soon carry the weight of Heaven’s mission on earth ... Over 2,000 years have passed since that moment, and the reins of His kingdom have been placed into the hands of "many brethren." ... So, how have we done with that responsibility? ... I believe it’s time—past time—that we rise into our true identity as Kainos beings: new creations, born from above ... We were re-created in Christ not just to survive, but to walk in His footsteps and fulfill His mission: to destroy the works of the devil ... So, let me ask you—how are you doing with that assignment?

## Spiritual Nugget:

You can't live out what you haven't become ... You cannot do what Jesus did unless you are one with Him ... That's why this revelation of the Gardener is so vital ... The soil of your heart must be broken, tilled, and made ready ... You must allow—and cooperate with—the Gardener of your soul as He prepares you for the harvest of your true identity.

## TRANS

So, this week – we move from the Gardener of our soul – to the Breath that awakens our soul to newness of life ... From the One who tends the soil – to the One who fills our lungs with resurrection power.”

## TEXT

### John 20:19-23 New Living Translation

#### Jesus Appears to His Disciples

That Sunday evening - the disciples were meeting behind locked doors - because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders ... Suddenly, - Jesus was standing there among them! ... “Peace be with you,” He said. ... 20 As He spoke, - He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side ... They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! ... 21 Again He said, “Peace be with you ... As the Father has sent Me, - so I am sending you.” ... 22 Then He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit ... 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven ... If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

## INTRO.

It was evening - on the first day of the week, - just hours after the astonishing reports that Jesus had risen from the dead ... Yet, despite the good news – the disciples were still huddled together behind locked doors – afraid, uncertain, and spiritually deflated ... They had walked with Jesus, - seen His miracles, - and even heard His predictions of resurrection, - but fear still gripped them ... And then, suddenly, without warning, - Jesus appears – not in a blaze of fire, not in a

roar of triumph, but with a word: "Peace." ... This moment was more than comfort ... It is the ignition of a new creation ... What takes place - is the spiritual awakening of the Church – a mystical act of divine breath - that recalls the creation of Adam - and points forward to Pentecost ... This text is pregnant with meaning: locked rooms, breathed Spirit, scars that speak, and a divine commission ... Let us now walk through this sacred encounter and awaken to what it means for us today.

### VERSE 19a

“That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders...”

#### Why were they afraid?

**They feared retaliation:** The text says they were behind locked doors "for fear of the Jews." ... Jesus had just been crucified, and as His closest followers, they likely feared they were next. ... The same powers that had killed their Lord could easily come for them.

**They were confused and disorientated:** Though Jesus had told them multiple times that He would rise again, they didn't understand it ... Some had heard Mary's report of the empty tomb and her encounter with Jesus, - but they hadn't seen Him for themselves yet ... They were caught in that strange space between testimony and personal encounter.

**Their expectations were shattered:** Many expected a political Messiah, - not a crucified one ... The cross crushed their expectation ... Though He had risen, - their minds were still processing the trauma, grief, doubt and unfulfilled expectations.

### VERSE 19b

“Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them. ‘Peace be with you,’ He said.”

#### Why were Jesus' first words - - “Peace be with you”?

Because of their fear, confusion, and disillusionment – the disciples didn’t need an explanation – they needed a revelation ... Jesus, the risen Lord, steps into their locked room and speaks directly to their mental and emotional condition ... “Peace” wasn’t just a greeting – it was a divine declaration ... Its intent was to restore their broken souls – affirmed that they were still chosen – and marked the beginning of a new creation ... This was the Shalom of the Divine Creator – which brought wholeness, reconciliation, and the atmosphere of resurrection into the room ... Before they could be sent, - they had to be grounded ... Before they could carry power, they had to receive peace ... He wasn’t just calming their nerves ... He was announcing a kingdom reality: The Prince of Peace now lives in you.

## **VERSE 20**

As He spoke, - He showed them the wounds in His hands and His side ... They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord!

After declaring peace – Jesus showed them His wounds – not to shame them – but to reveal the glory of redemption ... The scars were not a sign of defeat; - they were the credentials of victory ... In this moment, the disciples see not just that Jesus is alive, - but that death has been conquered and their failures have been forgiven ... He didn’t come to remind them of how they fled – He came to remind them that He carried them on the cross ... His hands bore the proof that love endures all things ... His side bore the mark that heaven was now open ... This was more than reassurance – it was a revelation: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ... But first, - they had to see the cost of their calling ... In showing His wounds, Jesus was saying: “This is what peace cost Me ... Now, let this peace live in you and flow through you.”

## **Seeing the Cost of the Calling**

### **Proverbs 20:25 Living Bible**

It is foolish and rash to make a promise to the Lord before counting the cost.

### **Luke 9:62 New Living Translation**

But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”

Counting the cost means - - carefully considering the weight and seriousness of your commitments before making them ... In today’s world – commitment means little to nothing when made ... This attitude will have serious consequences in the spirit realm ... Together, these scriptures urge us to pause, reflect, and fully understand the cost before we commit to following Christ or making spiritual promises ... God wants willing, not wavering, hearts.

## VERSE 21

Again, He said, “Peace be with you ... As the Father has sent Me, - so I am sending you.”

This is not just a commissioning – it is a continuation ... Jesus doesn’t just calm their fears and reveal His wounds; - He speaks purpose into their hearts ... The same divine mission that brought Him from the Father into the world is now passed on to them ... This isn’t an upgrade – it’s a transfer of essence ... “As the Father has sent Me” ... Not just in authority, - but in love, - in power, - in unity, - in submission, - and in resurrection life - “so I send you.” ... This is the mystical heartbeat of the Gospel ... You are sent in the same Spirit, - with the same authority, - to do the same works ... Because this same Christ – by His Spirit – now lives in you ... This commission isn’t about a task ... It is about a total and complete transformation ... Now catch this revelation - - - You're not being sent as a replacement for Jesus ... You are being sent as His body – with His breath in your lungs – with His Spirit in your soul – and with His wounds flowing through your compassion ... This is apostolic DNA ... The life of the resurrected Christ continuing in the life of His disciples – continuing through you

## VERSE 22

Then He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”

This moment is holy and sacred ... It echoes Genesis 2:7 when God breathed into Adam the breath of life ... Now the Second Adam breathes again ... But this time, - it's resurrected breath

– the wind of new creation ... He doesn't lay hands ... He doesn't shout ... He breathes – quietly – intentionally and divinely ... His breath carries the wind of eternity within it ... It is the impartation of a spiritual rebirth ... The disciples are no longer just followers of Jesus ... They are now born from above – a new creation being ... This is the indwelling Spirit – the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead – now lives in them ... Mystically speaking, - this is not Jesus sending oxygen; - it is Jesus sharing His very essence ... The same breath that filled His lungs in the tomb and animated glorified flesh – now fills His followers ... They become walking gardens of Eden – carriers of divine breath – sanctuaries of Spirit-life ... This is your portion too ... When Christ breathes on you, - your dead places come alive ... Your fears are displaced ... You no longer strive to reach Him – you now host Him ... He doesn't just want to speak to you – He wants to breathe in you.

## VERSE 23

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven ... If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

These are no ordinary words ... Jesus has just breathed the Spirit of new creation into His disciples – now He entrusts them with divine authority ... This is kingdom-level stewardship ... A responsibility with divine implications ... Let's unpack the mystery of this text.

**First** – this text is not about human judgment nor legalistic permission ... The disciples – are now infused with the Spirit of Christ – and are expected to move in a ministry of heavenly release ... Loosing the burden of sin through the proclamation of the Gospel – and calling the people into forgiveness and freedom.

**Next** – this verse reveals a spiritual gatekeeping role ... When we proclaim the Gospel with power, - led by the Spirit, - sins are either released through faith and repentance - - or retained if resisted ... This authority and responsibility should not be taken casually – as it carries with it eternal consequences ... Catch this – we are not making forgiveness happen ... We are

participating in the administration of forgiveness ... Like priests standing between heaven and earth, - we act as channels through which the life of God flows.

**Lastly** – this passage mystically affirms that we are His body ... We don't just preach the Gospel ... We are the very embodiment of the Gospel ... Catch this revelation – through you, the kingdom touches humanity ... Through you, God's mercy is made visible ... Through you, Christ's mission and purpose is extended throughout all the earth.

This is why – it is absolutely essential – that we grasp the mystery of union with Christ ... Because apart from Him – this kind of authority – that we have been given – can become extremely dangerous ... Authority – apart from union – can easily become corrupted – misused – and turned inward – rather than upward ... That's why we see so many believers stumble ... That's why we see preachers fall ... Are they gifted - - absolutely as the gifts and callings are without repentance ... But they were not grounded and they lacked spiritual maturity ... They certainly had influence – but they lacked in intimacy ... They had a platform – but no union.

But when this mystery of union takes root – deep within your spirit ... When you fully grasp this profound revelation ... You will never look at life the same again ... You will become a wise steward of Kingdom power ... A minister of reconciliation, - a bearer of peace, - a breather of life ... You will grasp the revelation that you are not simply speaking for Jesus ... But rather – you are living and functioning in oneness with Him – because He is the Vine and you are the branch.

## TAKE AWAY

### 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 New Century Version

If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. ... The old things have gone; everything is made new! ... 18 All this is from God. ... Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself, - and God gave us the work - of telling everyone about the peace we can have with Him. ... 19 God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. ... In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. ... And he gave us this message of peace.

Today, we've seen what happens when the risen Christ walks into the room ... And I've got news for you—He's here right now ... Because where two or three are gathered in His Name, He is in the midst of them ... Now catch this – He is not here to rebuke you ... He's the Prince of Peace ... He's not here empty-handed ... He comes ready to breathe His life into your spirit ... He's not here to make a spectacle ... He's here to send you.

The same Jesus who stepped into that locked room in Jerusalem is stepping into the locked places of your life right now ... And His word to you is this ... “Peace be with you ... Receive My Spirit ... Go as I went ... Speak as I spoke ... Forgive as I forgave.” ... See - - You weren't born again just to survive until Jesus returns ... You weren't born again just to thrive in your own blessings ... You were born again to become a breather of Spirit ... A minister of reconciliation ... A carrier of divine authority.

You've been entrusted with this glorious ministry – to tell the world ... God is no longer angry ... God has forgiven ... God desires peace with His creation ... Never forget: the Gospel is Good News! ... Humanity has already been reconciled to the Father through Jesus Christ ... And now – all anyone has to do – is simply say yes - - - to confess Jesus as Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead ... Let the Spirit seal this word in your heart, and may you leave today not just touched – but transformed – by this revelatory truth

### Closing Prayer

Father, I thank You for the presence of the risen Christ in this room today ... Thank You for walking into the locked places of our lives and speaking peace ... Thank You for breathing Your Spirit into us once again ... Lord, I pray we all receive Your call – as You are commissioning us to be sent ... I pray we receive the mantle and ministry of reconciliation ... To speak peace where there's been pain ... To release forgiveness where there's been failure ... To shine light where there's been darkness ... May we fully grasp that you have made us Breathers of Your Spirit ... Messengers of Your mercy ... Bearers of Your glory ... Let the revelation of union take root – deep within our spirits ... Let us walk as one with You, Lord ... Not in our own



strength, but in the power of the One who lives within us ... Now send us out, - - clothed in peace, - - filled with Your fire ... Ready to declare to the world - - God is not angry ... The path is clear ... And the way is through Jesus – and whosoever will – may come ... And I declare this in the mighty, reconciling, resurrected Name of Jesus - - Amen.