**John 20**

I. We celebrate the entrance into this world of a new creation

 A. Consider the old creation from Genesis 1-3

1. God creates in a 6 day work week followed by a day of rest, starting on the 1st day of the week

2. He creates a garden and puts the man and woman into it as the gardeners

3. He forms dust and breathes his spirit into the dust to form the man

4. Life in the garden was to be an experience of Shalom (=peace, wholeness, flourishing existence)

B. John’s resurrection account echoes the creation story because he is describing a new creation

1. It takes place on the first day of the week (v. 1)

2. It takes place in a garden (19:41) and Jesus is mistaken for a gardener (v. 15)

3. Jesus breathes his spirit into the disciples (v. 22)

4. Jesus speaks “Shalom” to his disciples

 C. Today we can be part of this new creation that Jesus offers the world

 See 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15

II. This new creation comes with a new peace/shalom (v. 21)

A. We all so need that peace

1. The disciples were devastated and they were afraid (v. 19)

2. Mary was devastated and sad

3. We all have situations that cause fear, anxiety, frustration, confusion, and we need to experience peace in those things

B. Let’s consider the foundation of the peace Jesus brings

1. The marks of his sacrifice are the foundation of his peace (v. 20)

a. On the cross he cried, “It is finished.” Everything that needs to be done to deal with our sin has been done

b. So we can experience peace with God. We no longer have to be afraid of him or have to be at odds with him because of Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

2. Jesus’ ascension to heaven is the foundation of our peace (v. 17

a. He is now on a throne in heaven and all authority in heaven and earth has been given to him

b. So the one who is in charge of our lives is the one who died for us and loves us so much

1) Nothing can happen to us that he does not allow to happen

2) Everything that happens to us he will work for our ultimate good

 C. Where do you need to experience Jesus’ peace today?

 1. This is peace in the midst of circumstances, not peace from circumstances

 2. Consider the example of Horatio Spafford, author of “It Is Well.”

III. This new creation comes with a new purpose/mission (v. 21)

A. Jesus was “sent” by the father with a purpose (e.g. see Luke 4:18-19)

B. Likewise we are sent by Jesus

C. We are sent to offer the peace we’ve experienced to the world

1. See 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

a. We are God’s Ambassadors: we speak on his behalf

 b. Our message is this: be reconciled to God.

2. We are not sent alone. We are sent with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit (v. 22)

3. Not everyone will accept the message. Their response to the message will determine whether they are forgiven or not (v. 23)

D. Just as Adam and Eve were supposed to take the Shalom of Eden and fill the earth with Shalom, so also we are to take the Shalom we’ve experienced and take it out to our world

E. Do you see yourself as someone who has been “sent”?

 1. To your neighborhood, your workplace, your family, your church

2. Where is God sending you at this time?

3. Our temptation is to simply receive Jesus’ peace and take it in for ourselves but not reach out and offer it to others (we are like Mary in v. 17 wanting to cling to Jesus when there are others who need to know his peace just as much as we do)

F. If Jesus had come to OC in 2016 with his sense of being sent, what would he be up to? Who would he be with and what would he be doing? If we are Christ followers, shouldn’t we be doing those things?

G. Consider Horatio Spafford’s story in Jerusalem

**Discussion Questions**

1. How did the parallels between the first creation in Genesis 1-2 and the “new creation” in John 20 strike you? And what are the implications for recognizing those, if anything?

2. Consider the offer of peace that Jesus makes. What was the most helpful idea about peace offered on Sunday? And where do you most need to experience the peace of Jesus in your life at this time?

3. Consider our new purpose of being sent with this message of peace to the world. What about that purpose was most helpful or challenging for you on Sunday? And where do you want to lean in to this idea of being sent at this time?

4. Consider the question posed on Sunday: “If Jesus had come to OC in 2016 with his sense of being sent, what would he be up to? Who would he be with and what would he be doing? If we are Christ followers, shouldn’t we be doing those things?” Take some time to try to answer those questions together as a group.