

THE NEW NORMAL

TCC – For some of us today, life is out sync. Our normal doesn't seem so normal anymore. All around the world, Christians are doubting their faith. They're questioning, "Where is God?" and "Can God really be trusted?"

TCC - Is there anything that resembles normal in my life? Good news...TCC- Jesus is alive this week too!

- The resurrection we celebrated last week is still very much in force this week and growing with every person who gives their heart tot Jesus

Message of the empty tomb is.... **WELCOME TO THE NEW NORMAL**

John 20:19 – On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were ...together with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 (*then*)... he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; ... NIV

How does the resurrection change everything? Today I want to talk to you about the resurrection realties of His presence.

The new normal - The resurrection brings us His presence

...Jesus came and stood among them

TCC – we are not alone. He is with us behind our locked doors... with us in the middle of a lockdown!

Matthew 28:20... I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Matthew 1:23... and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Hebrews 13:5... For He hath said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you”

TCC - We must be people who really believe in the presence of God

Psalm 23:4 – Though I walk through the valley for the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me

Q Do we really believe in His presence?

The resurrection reality of His presence brings His peace

Jesus didn't unlock the doors, He didn't do a huge miracle... but He did the *right* miracle.

- They had fear and He brought peace.
 - Jesus... said, "Peace be with you!"
 - Not peace with our circumstance... peace within the circumstance

John 14:27-“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. NLT

TCC- peace is a gift from Jesus...

- The peace Jesus offers is peace with God ... lasting peace... The world can never give this kind of peace
- Peace is a byproduct of His presence...

**Know God, know peace
No God, no peace**

He brings His peace- during this pandemic the world will only know the uncertainty of situation but for the church... because of His presence has the opportunity to tap into this peace. **TCC, peace is the new normal of the resurrection.**

The resurrection reality of His presence brings His joy

(then)... He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. NIV

Verification of His wounds... They saw Him die, now they recognize He is real. And their response? They're overjoyed.

Joy, like peace, comes from realizing His very real presence

Psalms 16:11 – You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy.” NIV

John 15:11 – “I have spoken these things with you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be perfect.” GW

- His Joy...in us.... is now our Joy!! Complete
- Acts 3 ...times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord

John 15:7 – If you abide in me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. NIV

Colossians 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ESV

- His presence... His peace... His joy... all part of the new normal of the resurrection

The resurrection reality of His presence brings His purpose

John 20:21-23 – As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven. NIV

Now His presence is realized ...God breathed into our human spirit. And He says, “I am sending you, my purposes are now upon you.”

True purpose life fulfillment comes from His presence...we cannot produce lasting fruit if we are not connected to the vine... TCC - How connected are you??

23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven...

- His presence brings spiritual authority... when you pray with someone to receive Jesus... His power goes to work. There is forgiveness of sin, the presence of the Holy Spirit, PEACE, JOY, POWER!

Discussion Questions:

Q. In what ways are you experiencing the reality of His peace?

Q. In what ways can you recognize the reality of His joy in your life?

Q. How does the resurrection reality of His presence bring purpose into your life?