

When They Saw the Lord
John 20:19-23

Review:

1. The wounds of Christ prove both His death and His bodily resurrection – they remove our need for fear
2. Jesus sends us to others the same way He was sent to us – to love and serve them even at the cost of our own suffering
3. Following Jesus includes telling the truth about sin, and thus about why He had to die – even if this causes us suffering.
4. Jesus equips us to follow Him by filling us with His Holy Spirit

Go Further: Read Matthew 18:1-20

1. What is the question Jesus' disciples ask Him in verse 1? What sort of attitude do you think this question reveals about them? Why is this sort of attitude so harmful for us to have when we deal with the sin in other peoples' lives?
2. In verses 2-4, what example of humility does Jesus place before His disciples?
3. In verse 2, where does Jesus say this sort of humility equips us to go? Why do you think this is the case?
4. What connection does Jesus make in verse 5 between Himself and humble children?
5. What warning does Jesus give in verse 6? In what ways might people make children stumble today?
6. Given what Jesus says in verse 7, do you think it is possible to remove all sources of temptation from society?
7. In verses 8-9, what does Jesus say we should do about temptations in our own lives? Are there any sorts of temptations that you think He would allow us to hold on to?
8. In verse 10, what attitude does Jesus warn us against? How might the pursuit of personal purity that Jesus mentions in verses 8-9 lead to this sort of attitude?
9. What do you think Jesus means when He refers to "their angels" in verse 10? What is He saying about the humblest people's access to the Father? Why should this be a warning to proud people who look down on them?
10. What does Jesus say a shepherd with 100 sheep will do if only one of them goes missing? What does Jesus say is his reaction when it is found?
11. What comparison does Jesus make in verse 14 between the Father and the shepherd? What does this tell us about the attitude we should have toward those described in the following verses, those we believe have gone astray from the faith?
12. If we come to believe someone has sinned against us, what does verse 15 say is the first thing we should do? Given what we've already learned in chapter 18, why should such conversation always be our first step?
13. What does verse 16 say is the second step in confronting someone about his or her sin? Why do you think this step is so important both for you and for him or her?
14. What does verse 17 say is the third step in confronting sin? How does Jesus say the church should treat someone who continually refuses to repent of sin?

15. Comparing verses 14 and 17, how should the church treat “heathens and publicans,” Gentiles and tax collectors? What do you think should be the ultimate goal of confronting someone about his or her sin?
16. What promise does Jesus make in verse 18 about the conclusions the church reaches concerning people’s sins? How important is the process described in verses 15-17 to ensure that the church reaches correct conclusions?
17. In verse 19, what promise does Jesus make to two or three Christians? Why does this underline the necessity of a group if we want to make good judgments about the presence and seriousness of sin in all of our lives?
18. Verse 20 is often used to assure a congregation of the presence of God in a worship service. What assurance do you think Jesus is trying to provide in the context of this passage?

Apply:

1. In what ways can we “receive” children as a congregation? How can we do this as individuals? Since children were considered the least important people in Ancient Near Eastern society, what other groups of people do you think Jesus would want us to “receive” today?
2. What changes do you need to make in your life to remove “stumbling blocks” from yourself? Are there any ways you might be causing others to stumble?
3. Can you think of a way that someone else might have sinned against you? Have you sinned against someone else? What might you need to do to begin the process of reconciliation?