

April 8, 2018
“From Fear to Overflowing Joy!”
(John 20:19-31)

It’s what _____ does to us sometimes. It shuts the door on great _____.

Fear is the opposite of the _____ to which Christ has called us.

How tragic it is any time the doors of the _____ are shut because of fear.

How tragic it is when fear shuts the door of a person’s _____.

Why were the disciples hiding in fear?

#1. – One reason may have been the spreading of _____ in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion.

The disciples were behind closed doors because of “fear of the _____ leaders.”

Whenever there is _____ between rival groups, _____ fly. Fear escalates. _____ is suspended.

Sometimes the results of rumors are relatively _____.

Sometimes the power of _____ rumors can have much more _____ consequences.

Idle rumors can ruin a _____. They can start a _____. They can trap good people behind closed doors because of _____.

We can identify with the disciples. There is much _____ in our society.

#2. – Secondly, because they had temporarily _____ their faith.

These men were not _____ or agnostics that Jesus had recruited.

(over)

There are _____ “Fear Not!” verses in the Bible—one for each day of the year and an extra one for Leap Year!

A time of _____ came and they had gone back to acting as they did before Jesus ever called them to follow him.

Under _____, something like that can happen. We temporarily _____ our faith and act like we never heard the _____.

We do this even though we know that _____ is our greatest ally.

Such faith makes us _____ to live with but is also of great benefit in dealing with some of our _____ fears.

Henry Ward Beecher: *“Every day has two handles; we can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.”*

The disciples had hold of the handle of _____.

#3. – Principally, they were hiding behind closed doors because they felt _____.

There was something about the _____ of the Master that gave them a sense of _____ even in the presence of danger.

Where was he now? _____. Body stolen from the tomb. Absent from them in _____ and in _____.

But God has not _____ his people!

Here’s the Good News: **Christ can _____ the closed doors of our lives!**

The antidote to the fear that so easily besets us: It is to experience the _____ of the Risen Christ!

To hear Him say, as he said to those early disciples:

“Peace be with you.”