

**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.”**