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Morning Bible Study Lesson Fear and Faith May 14, 2025, 11am

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"Assuming that Jesus is appropriately categorized as a religious figure, we more or less ignore the political-economic aspects and implications of Jesus' preaching and practice." (Horsley 45).

Scriptures:

- John 20:19–23 Jesus appears to the disciples behind locked doors.
- Luke 24:36–49 Jesus appears to His followers and gives them peace.
- Mark 14:50 All the disciples fled when Jesus was arrested.
- Matthew 26:69–75 Peter denies Jesus three times.
- Acts 1:12–14 The disciples gather and wait together after the resurrection.

Have you ever hidden emotionally or physically because you were afraid of something or overwhelmed by grief? What did it take for you to come out of that space?

- After Jesus was arrested, the disciples scattered (Mark 14:50).
- Peter, one of the boldest, denied Jesus three times out of fear (Matt. 26:69–75).
- After the crucifixion, they were locked in a room, afraid of being arrested (John 20:19).
- Their world had fallen apart; their Messiah was gone. Their fear was real.

John 20:19-23

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked in fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!"



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Questions:

- Why were the disciples hiding?
- How do you think they felt when Jesus suddenly appeared?
- What does it mean that Jesus said, "Peace be with you" first?
- How do you respond when you are afraid or uncertain in your faith?

Fear is real but not final. The disciples were deeply afraid, but Jesus met them right there.

Jesus shows up even behind locked doors. No situation, room, or emotional barrier can keep Him out.

Your hiding place can become your launching pad. The locked room became the place where Jesus breathed on them and gave them the Holy Spirit and mission.

Fear can isolate, but faith calls us to action and into community to do mission.

The Black Church is a living testimony of resurrection, hope, prophetic witness, and resilience.

- What are you hiding from today; grief, shame, fear of the future?
- Where do you need Jesus to show up and say, "Peace be with you"?
- How can your place of fear become a place of calling?