

Final Thought for the Day

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.”

John 20:19-20

This is the final Thought for the Day that we are going to send out...and in thinking about what to write, I looked back on the very first one I wrote which was on March 19th, the very first week of the ‘lockdown’. It is fascinating to read that first one from the vantage point of being where we are now, 5 months on. In that first TFTD I based it on the passage quoted above where Jesus appears to the fearful disciples and says, “Peace be with you!” Let me quote from that first TFTD where I said this:

*‘Jesus, right in the midst of this says, **“Peace be with you!”** God hasn’t abandoned us in this time of crisis. He says, ‘I am with you in it!’*

Think about it for a moment...who does Jesus say these words to?

He says them to disciples who are living in fear for their lives. They have seen their friend, Jesus, taken away and killed in the most cruel way possible. And they may be next to die.

Peace was the one thing they most certainly didn't have. You can't have peace when you think that someone is about to arrest you and crucify you!

*Then a voice said, **“Peace be with you”**. Not just any voice – Jesus's voice.*

How we need the peace giving Spirit of Jesus. How much does this world need to know that too.

“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Whatever you are going through right now, Jesus has promised to be with you.’

That truth still holds...over 5 months into this ‘new normal’ world we are in, on Jesus is still with us, whatever our individual circumstances and He says to each of us with gentleness and love and authority: **“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”**

May I take this opportunity to express a heartfelt and sincere ‘**thank you**’ to all those who have contributed to these Thought for the Days over these months...there are too many of you to name, but you know who you are (!) and may God bless you for the hours of thinking, praying and writing that have gone into these daily reflections – maybe they should be published in a book some day!!

Even though TFTD is coming to an end, we know God’s thoughts never end (**“How great are your works Lord, how profound your thoughts!”** Ps 92:5) and we know He is ever faithful, and He sees the beginning and the end!

May God bless you and be with you as He gives us all His peace!

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