

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to Sappony's first ever live-streamed service from our beautiful sanctuary in Stony Creek, Virginia. We are excited to have you join us, and while we wish it could be in person, we're thankful for the technology that allows you to join in from home. We pray that this service will be a blessing to you. Please be sure to like and comment so that we know you've joined in. Audio of this sermon, along with sermon notes and information about our church will be available at sappony1773.org.

INVOCATION:

Gracious Lord, we are thankful to be able to worship You today in Spirit and in truth. We thank You for Your love, Your protection, and Your church, which is not defined by a building. We lift to You this morning those who are suffering from COVID-19, and we pray for a miraculous healing for them. We lift to You doctors, nurses, and various others involved in the diagnosis and care of these patients, and we ask that You protect them from illness. We also ask that You protect those who have not become sick and ask that You would provide healing and a cure for this disease.

In the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

ABOUT VIRTUAL CHURCH:

1. Until further notice, we will be online only, following the CDC's guidelines to protect our members.
2. We will notify each member by phone when we resume meeting in person.
3. Our time and place of worship will be on Facebook live Sunday morning at 11AM.

4. The prayer list email will still be done on Thursdays, or more often if needed. Email prayer requests to mike@sappony1773.org
5. I will be sending a letter to every member's house detailing how we will continue to be the Church during the COVID-19 crisis.

MAIN TEXT (John 20:19-30)

PASSAGE OUTLINE:

1. THE DISCIPLES FEARED FOR THEIR LIVES
 - a. (20:19) They were gathered together with the doors locked because they feared the Jews.
 - i. Their lives were in physical danger.
 - ii. Their understanding of the world was shaken.
 - b. People are exhibiting various degrees of fear over COVID-19.
 - i. Fear that they will not have enough.
 1. Hoarding
 2. Financial worries
 - ii. Fear of the severity of the illness.
 1. Hiding in fear.
 2. Stealing masks from hospitals.
 - iii. Trying to prove that they have no fear.
 1. Partying on the beach.
 2. "God's going to protect me."
 - c. God has not promised us a safe and healthy life. He has promised us a safe and healthy afterlife if we believe.
2. JESUS SHOWED HIMSELF TO THEM
 - a. (20:19) Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace, be still."

- i. Whenever we are in our worst situations is when God shows Himself in the most amazing of ways.
 - ii. Peace: It is possible to have peace, no matter what the circumstances.
- b. (20:20) He showed them His hands and His side.
 - i. In His glorified body, Jesus still bears the marks of the crucifixion He suffered for us.
 - ii. The disciples rejoiced. We should too.
- c. Mark my words: Be on the lookout for Jesus to show Himself in a mighty way in this situation.

3. NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES RIGHT AWAY (OR AT ALL)

- a. (20:24) Thomas was not with them.
- b. (20:25) The disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord."
- c. (20:25) If I don't see the mark... I will never believe.
 - i. It's a very hard thing to believe!
 - ii. They are asking him to believe, sight unseen, that someone he *knew* to have been crucified was alive.
- d. (20:26-27) It was a week later when Thomas finally saw him.
 - i. Some of you have one that you've been praying for that still refuses to believe.
 - ii. Don't give up!
- e. Some never believe (Matt 7:13-14) "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.

4. BY BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE

- a. (20:30-31) Jesus did many miracles. John selected the ones he wrote about to prove that Jesus is the Messiah.
- b. By believing you may have life in His name.
- c. (Rom. 10:9-10) If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.
- d. Are you willing to believe today?

APPLICATION:

Is Jesus confronting you with your sin? You can turn it over to Him today. If you would like, you can close your eyes where you are and pray a prayer like this one with me now:

Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!

If you just prayed this prayer for the first time and are now a new believer, please let us know in the comments so that we can reach out to you to help you get started in your new life in Christ.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all this week. Amen!