

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 2021 REFLECTIONS.
BEHIND THE CLOSED DOORS.

The stage, the place, and the upper room were very familiar to the Apostles and the disciples of Jesus. It is here where they had the Last Supper, the washing of feet, and pledged their *loyalties* to the Lord. Loyalties that didn't last through the night before they betrayed him.

They had sweet and bitter memories of this upper room. It is in such a moment of fear when the Lord appeared to them, when the doors were closed and locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus knew where to find them. Too, He knows where to find us, during the moments we are in fear and in desperate disappointment. He will always appear to us and give us the strength we require. With the power of the Resurrection His body was already beyond the barriers of doors and windows. Note the fact that after his death they were all scattered everywhere, some going back to their business of fishing, others going back to the villages. Their dreams, visions, and hopes had hit the wall, due to the crucifixion and the death of their Master. It was a great scandal for them. Don't we all face numerous scandals in our life, society, and worse still, in the church!!

It is in such a situation two of them were on the road to the famous Emmaus, but Jesus intercepted them, and he talked to them about the fact of His death and resurrection. He made different appearances on different occasions to some of them, trying to regroup and reweave them, and tell them the truth of the Resurrection. They thought they were seeing a spirit. That is why He told them he is the one, by showing His hands and feet and the mark in His side. He was the Risen Lord.

He gave them what they needed at the time, through His greeting, ***"PEACE BE WITH YOU!"*** That was an assurance of forgiveness after they had betrayed Him. He gave them His assurance, presence, and purpose for His Mission. They were in turmoil after betraying, abandoning, and

denying Him. They were guilty.

Repentance and forgiveness were given through His presence and the message of peace. The message for all of us is clear. When we betray, deny, or doubt him in so many instances, His forgiveness is there for all. No matter what we might have done, however horrible our past, ***repentance and forgiveness are there***. Repentance brings us ***forgiveness, healing peace, and new life***. We become a new creation through the power of resurrection. This is the newness we find in the Acts of the Apostles with Peter and John healing and speaking with authority from ***cowardice*** to ***courage***. They called for repentance, ***“ Now you must repent and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped away(Act.3:19).”***

In the second reading we are being encouraged. We have an ***advocate***, Jesus Christ. His presence will bring us JOY and PEACE if only we will keep the commandments of God. The call is there for us and we have the mission like the apostles and disciples of Christ. How are we going to carry out this mission? We are called to be ***Witnesses of the Resurrection***. Like the apostles we ***must tell others***.

In the Resurrection, Jesus triumphed and overcame ***evil, sin, and death***.
In the Resurrection, ***love triumphed***.
In the Resurrection, ***our sins are forgiven, and healing is restored***.

WE MUST ALLOW THE RISEN LORD TO ENTER INTO OUR LIVES, GIVE US PEACE, COURAGE, STRENGTH, AND FORGIVENESS.