

HOLY SPIRIT BREATH

(John 20: 19-31)

Intro: Just as I was sitting down to write this sermon.

- Granddaughter Lorelei.
- Her mom.
- Her grandma.
 - #Came into the office.
 - *To visit.

Lorelei.

- Sat on my lap.
- She snuggled up.
- She breathed on me.

There are only a couple of people.

- I don't mind if they breathe on me.
 - #Lorelei.
 - #My wife Pam.

The rest of you.

- You can shake my hand.
- You can give me a hug.
 - #But keep the breathing to yourself.

I. Jesus Breathed On His Disciples.

A. It Was Easter Evening.

1. They were behind locked doors.
 - a. The tomb was open.
 - But their doors were shut.
 - b. The doors were locked.
 - For fear of the Judeans.
 - c. The disciples were afraid.
 - Perhaps afraid that what happened to Jesus.
 - #Could happen to them.
2. They had had the wind knocked out of them.
 - a. Their leader.
 - b. Their Messiah.
 - c. Their savior.
 - Had been crucified.
 - #Executed like a common criminal.

3. He was dead.
 - a. Their hopes were dead.
 - b. Their dreams were dead.
 - c. They were dead.
 - In their sins.
 - #Or were they?
 4. Jesus came behind their locked doors.
 - a. Resurrected Jesus.
 - b. Living Jesus.
- B. Jesus Breathed On Them.
1. Once before God had breathed.
 - a. God formed the first man from the dust of the ground.
 - b. He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.
 - c. The man became a living being.
 - Genesis 2:7.
 2. Jesus gives his disciples a second wind.
 - a. New life.
 - b. New creation.
 - c. New assignment.
 - Forgive sins.
 - #"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven;"
 - #"If you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
 - *John 20:23.
 3. Jesus gives them the Holy Spirit.
 - a. In Hebrew.
 - Same word (ruach) can mean:
 - #Wind.
 - #Breath.
 - #Spirit.
 - b. In Luke/Acts.
 - Disciples must wait 50 days.
 - #For Pentecost.
 - #For the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 2.
 - c. In the Gospel of John.
 - Disciples receive the Holy Spirit on Easter evening.
 - There's no waiting.
 - #Behind their locked doors.
 - #Into the midst of their fear.
 - *Jesus comes.
 - *Jesus breathes on them.
 - *Jesus breathes on them the Holy Spirit.
 - d. Jesus has Holy Spirit breath.

II. Sometimes We Are Behind Locked Doors.

A. For 28 Years I Worked In A Jail.

1. Jail doors are usually locked.

- a. I say "usually."
- b. It wasn't always so.

2. Old St. Louis County Jail.

a. Had doors into the confinement area.

-Blue doors they were called.

#Because they were blue.

-They were always locked.

#Unless someone was going through them.

b. But there was another door.

-Outside the bonding window.

-Went into the reception area.

#Where:

*Secretaries.

*Administrators.

+Worked.

-That door was always open.

#During the day.

-Until one day there was a threat.

#Former Lutheran pastor.

*Former because he became unfit for pastoral ministry.

+He had psych issues.

=He was usually nice enough.

-When he was taking his medicine.

=When he got off of his medication.

-That was another story.

#He was an acquaintance of mine.

*I knew him.

*He knew me.

#One day.

*Sterling's nephew got arrested.

+Sterling was his name.

+But he didn't always act with sterling character.

*Sterling wasn't on his medication.

*Sterling called the jail.

+He threatened to blow it up.

=Unless his nephew was released.

+He mentioned my name in the threat.

- #I got interrogated.
 - *By the jail administration.
 - *By the County Police.
 - + "Who was this guy?"
 - + "What did I know about him?"
 - + "How did he know me?"
- #Something else happened.
 - *That door into the reception area.
 - +Got locked.
 - +It was locked every day after that.

3. That's what fear does.
 - a. Doors get locked.
 - b. In jail.
 - Doors are locked.
 - #Not just to keep some people in.
 - #But to keep other people out.

B. Sometimes We Lock The Doors.

1. We lock the doors.
 - a. To our community of faith.
 - b. To our own hearts.
2. We don't always mean to.
 - a. If we've been hurt by someone we love.
 - We lock the doors.
 - We don't want to be hurt again.
 - #We lock ourselves in.
 - #We lock other people out.
 - b. If we've invited someone to join us.
 - To worship with us.
 - To sing with us.
 - To play with us.
 - #If we've been rejected.
 - *We may lock the doors.
 - *We don't want to be rejected again.
 - +We lock ourselves in.
 - +We lock other people out.
- c. That's what fear does.
 - We lock ourselves in.
 - We locked other people out.

3. Sometimes we're just tired.
 - a. Between:
 - Holy Week.
 - Easter.
 - Funeral.
 - Another Sunday.
 - b. With seven services.
 - In eleven days.
 - c. After writing five sermons.
 - In about 9-10 days.
 - d. I'll be honest with you.
 - I'm tired.
 - I feel like:
 - #Locking down.
 - #I need a breather.
 - #I need a blow.
 - *As the sports people like to say.

C. Jesus Gives Us A Breather.

1. Jesus comes with Holy Spirit breath.
 - a. Comes behind our locked doors.
 - b. He breathes on us.
 - He blows away our fear.
 - He blows down our locked doors.
 - #Just like the Big Bad Wolf threatens to do.
 - *To the Three Little Pigs.
 - #Only Jesus isn't the Big Bad Wolf.
 - *He is the Big Good Shepherd.
 - +He has Holy Spirit breath.
2. There is another word for spirit-breathing.
 - a. It's called inspiration.
 - b. Jesus breathes on us.
 - To inspire us.
3. Jesus inspires us in different ways.
 - a. Oftentimes for me it's when I'm on my bicycle.
 - But between:
 - #Lousy weather.
 - #Busy week.
 - I haven't had much time to ride.
 - #So God has to find another way to inspire me.

- b. Lorelei.
 - I'm busy.
 - I've got a sermon to write.
 - #I'm trying to shift gears.
 - *From funeral to Sunday.
 - #I'm not sure how best to get started.
 - In wanders Lorelei.
 - #Little Miss Spirit Breath.
 - *All of a sudden I have an idea for an introduction.
 - She doesn't know she's inspiring me.
 - #But God knows.
 - #I know.
- c. Nathan Napier.
 - Told his mom we should give Grandpa Preston.
 - #Really nice funeral.
 - He inspired me.
 - #He didn't know he was inspiring me.
 - *But God knew.
 - *I knew.

4. That's how God is.

- a. God often uses other people to inspire us.
- b. God uses us to inspire other people.
 - We all have Spirit breath.
 - We all have Holy Spirit breath.

Concl: Here at this altar.

- Jesus breathes on us.
 - #He gives us mouth to mouth resuscitation.
- In bread and wine.
 - #He revives us.
 - #He inspires us.

Here you get breathed on.

- With Holy Spirit breath.

