

John 20:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Analysis

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you—Christ repeats His peace greeting (v.19), this time as foundation for commissioning. The repetition emphasizes peace as essential to mission: only those possessing Christ's peace can bear His gospel. **As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you**—the Greek construction (kathōs...kagō, καθὼς...κἀγώ) creates parallel between Christ's sending and the disciples' sending. The Father's apostellō (ἀποστέλλω, official commissioning with authority) of the Son becomes the Son's pempō (πέμπω, sending with purpose) of disciples.

This commission establishes apostolic ministry's foundation: Christ's authority, Christ's mission, Christ's methods. The Father sent the Son into the world (John 3:17); now the risen Son sends disciples into the world (John 17:18). This parallels the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) but uniquely emphasizes continuity of mission—disciples continue Christ's work of manifesting God's glory, revealing truth, and gathering God's people. Mission flows from relationship with the risen Christ and participation in His continuing ministry through the church.

Historical Context

Jesus's commission fulfilled His high priestly prayer: "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world" (John 17:18). The Greek term apostolos (apostle) derives from apostellō (to send with authority), designating authorized representatives. Jewish culture understood the shaliach principle: "a

man's agent is as himself"—the sent one carries the sender's authority.

This commission launched the church's missionary movement. Acts records the disciples' obedience: preaching in Jerusalem (Acts 2-7), Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12), and to earth's ends (Acts 13-28). Church tradition places apostolic ministry across the Roman Empire and beyond: Thomas to India, Mark to Alexandria, Andrew to Scythia. The gospel's global spread from one locked room in Jerusalem demonstrates resurrection power transforming fearful disciples into world-changing witnesses.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding yourself as sent by Christ (as He was sent by the Father) transform your sense of purpose?
2. What does it mean to continue Christ's mission in the world, and what would this look like in your context?
3. Why must Christ's peace precede and undergird Christian mission and witness?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτοῖς	ό	Ἰησοῦς	πάλιν	Εἰρήνη	ὑμῖν·
said	Then	to them	G3588	Jesus	again	Peace	be unto you
G2036	G3767	G846		G2424	G3825	G1515	G5213
καθὼς	ἀπέσταλκέν	με	ό	πατήρ	κάγὼ	πέμπω	ὑμᾶς
as	hath sent	me	G3588	my Father	I	send	you
G2531	G649	G3165		G3962	G2504	G3992	G5209

Additional Cross-References

John 3:17 (Parallel theme): For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 13:20 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Acts 1:8 (Parallel theme): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 10:40 (Parallel theme): He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 10:16 (Parallel theme): Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

2 Timothy 2:2 (Parallel theme): And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.