

## Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

April 6, 2026 / Series: Stations of Peace (Lent 2026) / Sermon Title: "Reconciled Peace"

Sermon Texts: John 20:19-31 and Ephesians 1:15-23 / Rev. Andrew Keuer

Link to sermon: <https://youtu.be/IBWXvN-TdhY?t=1953>

**Key Points & Observations of the Text:** read John 20:19-31 aloud.

**The big idea:** The claim of the 2026 Easter sermon was that Christ's resurrection does not "fix" the world – rather, it makes available to disciples a durable peace from which they can live well to God and others.

**Opening discussion:** Pastor Andrew shared the story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *The Fixer* by Bernard Malamud (made a film in 1968 by John Frankenheimer): A talented young man could fix anything (pots, pumps, roofs, etc.) but ends up imprisoned as he tries to move from 'fixing' his own life to 'fixing' the life of another person. Frankenheimer said the film critiques the Lone Ranger ideal of a hero who shows up, vanquishes problems, and makes everything right for the common man / woman. Along with the Lone Ranger, what other cultural icons embody this ideal of a "fixer" of our problems?

### I. The disciples discovered they could not fix life themselves

\*The disciples had ridden the roller-coaster of highs and lows with Jesus, expecting Him to be the ultimate fixer who would bring the kingdom without any big hang-ups.

\*On Good Friday their "Lone Ranger" vision of Jesus was shattered; real life came crashing down and they found themselves terrified, locked in a room, unable to fix the situation or even protect themselves.

\*Thomas becomes the symbolic disciple – cynical, closed off, convinced that nothing good can happen anymore.

\***Discussion:** How can clinging to a "fixer" or "Lone Ranger" view of life (or of Jesus) hinder our peace? What would you say to a friend who is still trying to fix everything themselves?

### II. The resurrection brings not 'a fix' but a durable peace

\*Jesus appears to these fearful, guilty disciples and gives the same sermon 3xs: "Peace be with you."

\*The first time (v. 19), Jesus addresses the guilt of the disciples. Surely the disciples felt horribly for abandoning their leader. How does the resurrection assure them their guilt is forgiven?

\*The second time (v. 21), Jesus seems to address the disciples' sense that life simply became too complicated as they tried to follow Jesus. How does the resurrection assure us that we don't have to figure everything out?

\*The third time (v. 26), Jesus speaks directly to Thomas, rebuilding his ability to trust his friends. How does resurrection shift someone from generalized cynicism to realistic optimism?

\***Discussion:** From which of the three dimensions of anti-peace (guilt, complexity, or cynicism) do you most need healing right now?

**Conclusion:** How can you explain to someone unfamiliar with the Christian faith the vast difference between believing the resurrection as God's "fix" to the problems of this present world, versus seeing it as a gift of durable peace to disciples who call on Jesus' Name?