



## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

"Secure in the Resurrected Christ" | Rev. Josh Keller | April 24, 2022

#### Acts 5:27-33, 40-42

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. **30** The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. **31** God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

**33** When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them...

**40** and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. **41** Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. **42** And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

#### Revelation 1:4-10, 17-18

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, **5** and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood **6** and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **7** Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. **8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." **9** I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...

**17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, **18** and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

#### John 20:19, 24-29

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."...

**24** Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." **26** Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

#### Key Discussion Questions from Tim's Sermon:

##### Introductory Discussion

Josh began by reminding us of our common understandings of Thomas, such as "Doubting Thomas." What do you think of Thomas? When Josh suggests that we consider calling him "Fearful Thomas," how does that strike you?

##### Sermon Discussion Questions

Josh built his discussion of Thomas' fear around three central points: fear, security, and boldness. The following questions are built around his outline.

1. T/F. Thomas' chief emotion in confronting the resurrected Christ is fear. Discuss.
2. What were the implications for Thomas' life if Jesus was indeed resurrected? How might those be scary? In what ways can you identify with him?
3. Would you say that Thomas Jesus deals tenderly or sternly with Thomas' fears? Have one group member choose each side and argue it.
4. How does the way Jesus deals with Thomas' fears correlate with Thomas and the disciples' subsequent security and boldness?
5. How do you want Jesus to deal with your fears? How have you experienced him dealing with your fears in the past? Tell a story from your life where that happened for you. Explain how it impacted you then and how it impacts you now.
6. Josh introduces Harry Potter's resurrection and victory over Voldemort as the mere shadow of Jesus' substantive victory of sin and death. Discuss the analogy.
7. T/F Jesus' resurrection from death means the battle against sin, death, darkness, and isolation is over. How might this perspective help you? Do you find it dangerous? Discuss.
6. Josh declares that through Jesus' resurrection he invites to share triumphantly in his ongoing work as our savior. What were some of the specific roles and duties he mentioned? Which role fills you with the most excitement? Trepidation? Why?
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, ten being highest, honestly rate your confidence in the reality of Jesus' resurrection.
8. Thomas needed an intimate even gruesome exploration of Jesus' wounds in order to deepen his security in and boldness for Jesus. In what ways do you need to "stick your finger into Jesus' wounds" in order to increase your security in him and boldness for him? If it helps, consider that the Bible refers to the Church as "the body of Christ."