

Resurrection Sunday... Part 3!

John's Gospel @ CF...

John 20:19-31

Sermon notes – BK

April 19, 2026

SO... as promised, this is part THREE, and FINAL message of the Day Jesus Resurrected!

Christ is Risen... He is Risen Indeed!

I love the build-up...

Two weeks ago (On Easter Sunday)

- **Mary goes to the tomb to embalm Jesus and sees the stone was rolled away**
- **She gets Peter and John**
- **They run to the tomb and go inside to see Jesus' grave cloths there, face cloth off to the side...**
- **Peter and John went home...**

LAST WEEK –

Mary Magdalene lingered longer.

Mary didn't rush off... she was perplexed because she wanted to care for the body of Jesus, and He was not there!

- **Mary encounters the angels that were sitting at the head and the foot of where Jesus' body was...**
 - **“Woman why are you weeping?”**
 - **They are sitting on the “mercy seat” fulfilled...**
 - **Were they asking it in a way she did not understand yet?**
- **Mary then encounters Jesus**

- She does not know it at first
- Then Jesus calls her name... “Mary...”
- With that, everything changed for her... she clung to Him
- Jesus sends her back to “My brothers...” to let them know
 - Mary, the first to receive this amazing revelation!
 - Mary, the first witness to the Risen Jesus!

There is a lot more to this... listen to last week’s message ;-)

NOW... we come to the last of the Easter messages!

Let’s read through this as a whole then we will go back through it...

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ 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.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

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.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Up to this moment – Life was completely upside down for these in this room...

The disciples are in a safe place together.

- The doors are locked
- Jesus is not in the tomb and they are the first ones the religious leaders may come after!
- Mary told them she has seen Jesus, but they are not believing her...

The last thing they are feeling right now is... Peace.

Peace is an important repeated word in these verses for today.

We are going to follow this all the way through this passage today...

Peace - *eirēnē*

- It was a formula of wishing well, a blessing
- The tranquil state of a soul

Jesus spoke peace to them just days ago...

But I am suspecting they had no idea what was going to come

Peace would have been a bit hard to find in these moments in that room before Jesus came...

Yet, Jesus spoke just days earlier (I know, seems like months and months for us!) ...

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

And again

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

This is all important as we come to this time – this point of the most amazing day in history.

So... we are going to follow the Path of Peace today.

We will see that Complete and total peace can only be found in Jesus.

Let's see how the Peace of God unfolds...

His peace to those locked in fear

¹⁹ 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."

The disciples had heard reports

- Mary
- The two on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
- They were locked up in the room... in fear.

THEN...

Jesus appears to them – right through the door, like He went right through the grave cloths...

That would be enough to startle any of us... to say the least!

Peace was absolutely needed!

They are now beginning the process of no longer being locked up in fear!

We also see...

Assured peace for the mission ahead

²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Jesus does not make them guess.

- **He immediately shows them His hands and side**
- **They saw then those marks were made**
- **The marks remained**
 - **Evidence of where He had been**
 - **A reminder of His great victory**

The disciples were “glad” –

**Other translations –
Message, “awestruck”
NLT, “filled with joy”**

I guess they would be!!!

Jesus then restates, *“Peace be with you.”*

He also reminds them that this is just the beginning.

- **They thought the mission was over – Jesus was killed!**
- **Whatever their step-next looked like, Jesus actually dying would not have been part of it.**

This is giving application and clarity to what Jesus prayed earlier –

John 17:18

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

They are now living testimonies of what Jesus told them

Assured peace for the mission ahead

- He is alive – they have total assurance of that now!
- He proclaims His peace over them here again
- With all this in mind, He is sending them as He has been sent

But – How will this be done without Jesus being with them?

Glad you asked!

Jesus, God the Son will not be with them in bodily form...

But God the Spirit will be!

Peace that only comes by His Spirit

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, “breathed” on them...

Where else do we see God breathing like this?

Genesis 2:7

then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

We also see it in the vision of the Valley of Dry Bones...

Ezekiel 37:1-14 – Prophesying to the dry bones to live... by the breath of God!

Here, the disciples receive the Holy Spirit

When do WE receive the HS?

Ephesians 1:11-14

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

THIS brings us also to a place of...

Peace that only comes by His Spirit

There is a progression here –

- Jesus gives them their mission
- Jesus empowers them with His Spirit

THEN, Jesus helps to define a fruit of this mission, and a great responsibility.

Peace with a message of forgiveness

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”

What do you think of these verses?

Kinda like – all of it was making great sense... then THIS ;-)

What does it NOT mean?

That the Disciples are given the power to forgive sins or not.

Isn't that what it says?

Yes... but there is more.

...When you come to passages like this, we need to remember a very important Bible-interpreting rule...

With Bible interpretation...

The clear always overrides the obscure.

What do we know is clear about sins being forgiven?

Isaiah 43:25

“I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.”

Psalm 130:3-4

***If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?***

***4 But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.***

Micah 7:18a

***Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression
for the remnant of his inheritance?***

When you look at this in context –

We see the progression here –

- Jesus gives them their mission**
- Jesus empowers them with His Spirit**

Jesus then gives them the message of the meat of the Gospel... FORGIVENESS!

This is the message they are to proclaim!

The message of forgiveness is huge, and He uses us to proclaim it...

This is what we see on the Day of Pentecost through Peter's preaching...

Acts 2:37-39

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your

children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Now we read something interesting that is seen only in John...

We have seen what peace brings... here's where peace is missing...

Peace that is missing in unbelief

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.”

WOW... this is a strong statement...

Thomas is in the room with those whom he has been through a LOT with... And yet the pain of losing Jesus seems to overwhelm him to the point he will not believe even these...

Thomas required empirical, real evidence.

Thomas had no peace because he was living in unbelief.

To be fair, they all were in this place, and they were all convinced by the same evidence Thomas is now demanding...

Mark 16:14

Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

Then we see, Jesus provides all Thomas needed...

Powerful Peace that drives out disbelief with one touch

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.”

Jesus knew exactly what Thomas needed

- It was the same as the other disciples got
- Jesus speaks directly to Thomas' demands without even being there...

“Do not disbelieve...”

- Choosing unbelief, being incredulous

“...but believe.”

Choose TO –

- Believe
- Trust
- Be convinced...

Peace that proclaims the truth of Jesus

28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

Thomas got there... and he makes a proclamation that rings out loud and true...

Proclaiming Jesus as GOD, the Son!

Thomas found great peace!

A peace that led to firm belief.

Peace that leads to belief

29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Thomas now believed, (as did the others by the way) – because he got to see and touch the risen Lord Jesus....

Jesus proclaims a truth about us...

- Those who “would believe” – John 17:20
- Those who believe without seeing...

We will be blessed!

- **Blessed** with His Spirit
- **Blessed** with the testimony
- **Blessed** with the Word of God
- **Blessed** with the fellowship that comes as we seek Jesus together as the Body of Christ

BLESSED!

Peace is abundant in the Author of Peace

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

We do not know what these are, but it was significant enough for John to include it here...

I want to see that!

Is this similar to what John writes about in the last verse of the next (and last) chapter?

John 21:25

Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Sustained Peace through believing in Christ Jesus

³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

How is your peace in God sustained? Believing in Jesus.

That you may have life in His name...

Life – Zoé

- Real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God**

Like the disciples – fear can lock us up...

May we hear the words of Jesus,

“Peace be with you.”

When we are lacking, may we seek the Lord...

Paul gives us this instruction I lean into all the time...

Philippians 4:6-7

“...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”