



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Disbelieving for Joy

Passage: Luke 24:36-43

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: Have you ever received news that seemed too good to be true? This was the case for the first disciples, who found it difficult to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. What was it that seemed too good to be true? It was the reality that death had been defeated. Sin had been conquered. Their Savior—the one they saw crucified—was now standing in front of them, alive. The truth was so beautiful, so overwhelming, that their hearts could hardly contain it. They believed, but it was almost too much to take in. They “yet believed not for joy,” because joy that deep, that sudden, that life-changing can feel unreal. But it was real. Jesus had risen—just as He said. And their disbelief turned into unshakable faith as the impossible became undeniable.

I. The Peace Jesus Offers Is Too Good to Be True (Verse 36)

"Peace" was the first word that Jesus spoke to His disciples after His resurrection.

For the disciples, the word "peace" meant that the man in their midst really was Jesus.

"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." (John 14:27)



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- A. They had peace from their sorrow and grief because Jesus was not dead after all.
- B. They also had peace with God, because all their sins were forgiven through the cross where Jesus died.
- C. They had peace with Jesus Himself.

Even after we have fallen away, or broken our promises, or turned our backs on Him—Jesus comes to us in peace.

II. The Reality of the Resurrection Is Too Good to Be True (Verses 37-42)

The body that rose from the garden tomb was a marvelous, mysterious body with extraordinary abilities.

Our doubts will be dispelled only by listening and looking to Jesus, who is the perfect cure for troubled hearts.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;" (1 John 1:1)

- A. We have a reliable testimony.

We ourselves have only heard the word of life—we have not seen Jesus with our eyes or touched Him with our hands. But we have the reliable testimony of people who did.

- B. We have a strong testimony.

It is a strong testimony because the people who gave it had ample opportunity to examine the evidence firsthand, and thus to verify that they were really in the physical presence of Jesus.

The wounds from the nails that pierced the hands and feet of Jesus were no longer bleeding; they were healed and glorified.



SUNDAY MORNING
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Yet they were still visible—so when the disciples saw them, they knew for sure that it was Jesus Himself.

Conclusion: So—do you believe it, for joy? Like the disciples, we may find the resurrection almost too good to be true. But it *is* true. Jesus has risen, and because He lives, we too shall live. This is not just a comforting thought—it is a glorious promise, grounded in God's Word and sealed by Christ's victory over the grave. Let your heart marvel. Let your faith rejoice. Do not disbelieve because the news is too good—believe it, and let that joy carry you all the way to the day when faith becomes sight and sorrow is swallowed up in resurrection glory.



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