

The Resurrected Jesus Gives Proof and Peace and Purpose

Very Special Gifts

- Happy East! Last Sun: East. What strange/emotional East was for us – couldn't even come church, worship risen Lord! But even though church was empty, so was tomb – Xp risen, indeed, alleluia. And no ww health pandemic can steal away our East joy or shake our Xian faith in our risen Sav.
- Today's Gos from Jn 20 takes us right back to 1st East. And you think it was strange/emotional East for us? Imagine what like for discs! Few days before this, saw J nailed to cross, buried in tomb. But that night, saw J alive, risen from dead! And there behind locked doors, J gave frightened followers some very special gifts. Today we see resctd J give his discs (and us!): proof, peace, purpose.

The Resurrected Jesus Gives Proof

- Watch how J gives proof of res: **vs. 19a stood**. Didn't have to do that. Could've just: risen, ascended hvn right away. Msg of angels & empty tomb could: proof enough. But J wanted dispel all doubts; so that night, **came, stood among**. In fact, in 40 days after res, actly appeared many ppl, numrs occsns. 1 Cor 15 mentions J appeared over 500 at same time. But here, East eve, **vs. 19a J came, stood**. Proof.
- Here's more proof: doors locked. J didn't just knock, they let in. His risen body sudnly materlzd inside room, in mircls way. Still physcl body; but no longer in state humltn; exaltn; and he's using res body do things we can't do. His body passed thru: grave clothes inside tomb; tomb walls when descnd hell; here, he's passing thru locked doors. More proof.
- And then: shows hands/side, wounds from crucfxn. When J was raised, his body healed, glorified – no more thorn scars, whip marks. But God did allow J keep, in his body, the marks of nails & slash on side – as proof, for discs & us. J gives us proof.
- Does that to strngthn our faith. Res of J, single most imp truth Xianity. W/o it, Paul: faith futile, still in sins. So everything we know re God's love/forgvns/grace; every promise of heaven – all hinges on res. J wants his discs of every age know/bel he truly rose from dead. So gives us proof. We need proof. W/o it, devil tempts us doubt God. But J gives us proof.
- Tom not with discs that night, for whatever reason; don't know why. When other discs told, "We've seen Lord," he: **vs. 25b**. Wanted proof. We call: DT; prob not very fair. All discs had their doubts; and if Tom'd been w/them that night & seen J, he certly'd believed. But wasn't, and wanted proof.
- So resctd J gave him proof. Wk later, discs tog again, this time w/Tom; J appeared, again. After greeting them, 1st thing J does: turns to Tom, says **vs. 27**. And remem, Tom didn't think J could hear when: **vs. 25b**. But J did hear him, bec God – another proof. And I pic Tom, wide eyed, jaw dropd, checking out wounds, until all his doubts dispelld, and his joy ovrflws into one finest confsns Xian faith in Bible: **vs. 28**. Tom got his proof!
- Then J: **vs. 29**. Here he's talking re us – re every Xian who bels in J but never seen w/own eyes. We'll see him in hvn; scars, too. But haven't seen yet. And 1st lesson, 1 Pt 1: "**ThO you have not seen him, you love him; and even thO you do not see him now, you bel in him and are filled w/an inexprsbl & glorious joy**" (1:8). That joy ours, bec J is risen from dead; and we have proof! Put self in that room w/Tom; check out wounds for self. Stop doubting, bel. Resctd J gives us proof.

The Resurrected Jesus Gives Peace

- And that proof gives us peace. J also gives us peace. Discs had no peace. Teacher dead; it'd be nothing for Pilate round up discs, nail them to cross as quickly as condmnd J. So they scared! Why they locked doors, 2 wks in row, even after J appeared them! Had no peace.
- So J's 1st words: **peace bwu**. Then repeats; and again wk later – **peace bwu**. Perfly normal Jewish greeting; still used today: *Shalom*. But on lips of risen Lord J, those words, **peace bwu**, take on new signifnc. Resctd J gives us peace.
- Maybe right now, you feel like have no peace. Certly our world not at peace. COVID-19 devsttd lives of ppl all across world. As of this sermon, >144k ppl've died of virus, 29k from our own country.

That's lot of dead ppl, lot hurting fams! ICUs evrywhr filled w/ppl all ages hanging on for dear life. And even if not sick, how many you lost: job, hours, income, sense/securety, frantly scrmbng figure out what do now? Discs locked indoors; we feel, too. Discs afraid of authorities; we, virus. Peace?

- In world of chaos/unemploymnt, disease/death, res of J gives us peace. This is peace of being reconcl'd to God. Our sins septd us from God, leaving us w/no: forgvns, hope, hvn; no peace. But J's sacrifice on cross covered our guilt, bec J bore our punshmnt in our place, once/for all. When J died, said: finshd; now that risen says: **peace bwu** – we have peace w/God! Means God'll never count sins vs us ever again (Rom 8, no condmtn). Means no matter what phys/financl setback we go thru, J always be w/us (Mt 28, surely w/u always). Means don't have be afraid death, bec when die, home in hvn (Jn 14, Father's house). This: peace have, even in peaceless world, bec J rose dead. Resctd J gives peace.

The Resurrected Jesus Gives Purpose

- And finly, resctd J gives purpose; job to do. **Vs. 21b**; J sends us on msn to continue his msn of sharng Gos w/world. **Vs. 22**. Remem, work HS: create/strngthn faith in hrts & enlighten us thru God's Wd. In Lk acct: J **“opend their minds so could undrstnd Scrptrs” (24:45)**. So J was giving them his HS: strngthn faith, better undrstndng. And they'd need that for this task: **vs. 23**. J, same, Mt 16, **“I will give you keys kngdm hvn; bind; loose” (16:19)**. Luths call this min of keys; one of 6 chief parts of Cat – task of forgvng/wthhldng forgvns, or could simply call: task proclmng L/G. That's what J wants us do; that's our purpose. Everyone in world has sins chained/padlocked around their hearts. J wants Xians share good news of forgvns, thru J's res, so Gos key can unlock lock, release chains. But when ppl reject J/Gos, need be warned: lock not unlocked, chains remain. That's prclmng L/G; and that's what J sends all Xians do (prs & lay ppl); that's our purpose – bec more we proclaim L/G, more chains unlockd, more sins forgvn, more hearts bel in Xp. Resctd J gives purpose.
- Speaking of purpose, very end reading gives us Jn's purpose for writing this Gos. **Vs. 30-31**. Gos Jn (whole Bible) written for one singlr purpose: that we might bel in J. God wants everyone: bel in J as Sav; bel that J lived for us, died, rose, redeemed, saved, bec loves us. **Vs. 31** – a life of faith here on earth, & eternal life w/J in hvn. Bel in J! That's God's purpose for us!

Conclusion

- We all have doubts/fears. Discs did; Tom did; we do too. But doubts/fears fly away, and are replaced w/joy & faith, when J rises from dead & gives us: proof, peace, purpose. May resctd J continue to bless us w/peace and strengthen our faith in him as our Sav. In his name. Amen.

John 20:19-31

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.