

John 20:19-31

Jesus Christ is risen

1. Jesus Appears to His Disciples (Vs. 19-23)

V. 19. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

John doesn't try to explain how Jesus appeared or how a dead person came back to life. He simply affirms that the risen Lord Jesus appeared to the disciples and they were fearful and confused. Jesus greets them with a common greeting of 'peace' but it is no ordinary greeting. Jesus offers peace with God and with each other because he has destroyed the power of sin to bring fear and death for all who trust in him.

V. 20. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

This is clearly the one whom they knew well, the one who had been crucified and who had been placed in the tomb after his death. They were overjoyed when they recognised him – he was alive. The disciples were able to testify to others that Jesus is alive. They do not claim to understand how, but they know it is true he is alive because they have met him.

Vv. 21-22. Jesus alone can give peace, forgiveness and the Holy Spirit.

The disciples are to represent Jesus as he has represented the Father.

The first disciples are the nucleus of the church. They can only live and speak the good news about Jesus if he is with them. The Spirit is the one who brings the risen Lord Jesus to believers – (see Jn. 14:18 & 14:22). **The granting or not of 'forgiveness of sins' is the result of the cross and resurrection.** Trusting in Jesus is the way to receive forgiveness, while failing to trust in him means forgiveness is withheld. Believers are commissioned to proclaim this truth.

Reflection/Response. How is the gift of the Spirit a sign of God's forgiveness?

2. Jesus appears to Thomas and the other disciples (vs. 24-29)

V. 25. Thomas said, "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 it."

V. 26-29. Thomas meets the risen Lord and moves from doubting to the amazing statement, "My Lord and my God!" The first disciples' role is not one of privilege and status but of responsibility to help others who have not seen to believe.

Reflection/Response. How are we blessed as those who have not seen but believe?

3. John states the purpose for his gospel account ' these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name'. (v. 31)

Reflection/Response. How does peace and joy characterise the new life we have as followers of Jesus Christ?

1 Cor. 15: 3-9. Content of the gospel:

- i. Jesus 'Christ died for our sins' (i.e. he took our punishment)
- ii. 'according to the Scriptures' (i.e. as foretold in the OT).
- iii. 'that he was buried' (i.e. really died)
- iv. 'that he was raised on the third day' (he was raised from the dead)
- v. 'according to the Scriptures' (i.e. as foretold in the OT)
- vi. 'that he appeared to Peter... the twelve...more than five hundred ...most of whom are still living... to James... to me [Paul].' (i.e. eye witnesses who had met the risen Lord Jesus).