

## **Lighthouse Bible Church**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**John 20: 19 – 31** *Scripture Reading: Luke 24: 35 - 43*

**‘Because you see Me you Believe?’**

### **Stand – Read – Pray**

Last week we looked at the sovereign resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead starting in Chapter 20 and Verse 1. We saw Mary Magdalene go to the tomb of Jesus expecting to anoint His body with some ointments and spices.

They get there and the stone that covered the tomb was rolled away and the body of Jesus was not in there. We saw from parallel passages that two angels told Mary and others not to seek the living among the dead, that He was not there but He was risen from the dead just like He said He would.

So Mary goes and tells the other disciples and we read about Peter and John running to the tomb and Peter going inside and not finding the body of Jesus but found all the burial cloths still there and the face cloth folded and laying by itself.

Then John goes inside and based on what he has seen and what he remembers Jesus telling him about His resurrection, he believes that Jesus has raised from the dead. Then they all leave and go to their own homes.

Then we saw that Mary Magdalene went back and looked into the empty tomb and saw 2 young men, who were really angels, sitting inside. They ask her why she is crying and she tells them that someone has taken away the body of Jesus.

And then she turns around and sees someone standing there, who is the resurrected Jesus but her eyes haven't been open yet to recognize Him. She assumes that it is the gardener, so she asks him where the body of Jesus is and then Jesus, with just one word, reveals Himself to her and she falls down at His feet.

The resurrected Jesus tells Mary to go and tell His brethren that He is ascending to His Father and their Father and His God and their God. So she leaves and tells the disciples all that she had seen and heard and initially they did not believe her. That is where we want to pick it up this morning starting in Verse 19.

**Verse 19: then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst and said to them 'peace be with you'.**

So it is the same day of His resurrection and it is now evening time. And by the way, this began the official 'Christian Sabbath' if you will, where the church began to meet on the first day of the week because of the resurrection of Jesus on that day. You see that in such passages as **Acts 20: 7, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16: 2.**

Besides what we have seen already of the empty tomb, the grave clothes, the body not accounted for, one eye witness so far, Jesus is about to prove beyond a reasonable doubt, beyond any doubt, that He is alive by showing Himself to different people and verifying what He had said many times before about rising from the dead.

And He only shows Himself to His own, His brethren, to believers. He could have shown Himself to the Jewish religious leaders but they still would not have believed Him. **Luke 16: 19 – 31 ..though one rise from the dead.**

Do you remember how Paul describes the gospel in **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 1 – 4**. Then he says **and He was seen by Peter and the 12 and over 500 people at one time**. How can you refute that?

So He appears to them when they are **all assembled together** in a room **with the doors shut** and apparently locked because **they were afraid of the Jews**. They locked the doors and were meeting together for fear of the Jews doing to them what they did to Jesus.

By the way, **Luke 24** records that after Jesus' resurrection, He meets with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, talks with them, eats with them and then reveals Himself to them and they go back to Jerusalem and meet with the 11 disciples and others gathered together in this room, when Jesus then appears.

And Jesus just suddenly **appears and stood in their midst** and says **peace be with you**, it says. He just sort of appeared out of nowhere. The parallel account that was read earlier in **Luke 24: 37** says when He appeared that **they were terrified and frightened and supposed they had seen a spirit**. And because they are afraid look what Jesus does in Verse 20.

**Verse 20: when He had said this He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.**

In **Luke 24: 38 – 39** it says Jesus said to them **why are you troubled and why do doubts arise in your hearts?** Then He says **behold My hands and My feet that it is I Myself, handle Me and see for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.**

Then Luke adds in **Verse 42 – 43** that Jesus says **have you any food here? So they gave Him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb.** Then, as John 20: 20 says **the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.** Now they were absolutely convince that it was Jesus Himself. Then Jesus says in:

**Verse 21:** So Jesus said to them again ‘peace to you, as the Father has sent Me, I also send you’.

Interestingly enough, as Jesus shows Himself to the disciples, **Matthew 28: 18 – 20** says He gives them the great commission to **go and make disciples.** In **Mark 16: 14 – 16** after Jesus shows Himself to the eleven and rebukes their unbelief He says to them **go into all the world and preach the gospel.** In **Luke 24: 44 – 48** after Jesus shows Himself to them and eats with them He tells them that He is the fulfillment of all that He had told them about His death, burial and resurrection for the repentance and remission of sins and then He says **this message shall be preached in His name to all nations beginning in Jerusalem.** He came to them to affirm His resurrection and then to commission them to share that gospel truth to the world as He had done for the Father, they are to do for Him. *Same for us today.*

**Verse 22:** and when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them ‘receive the Holy Spirit’. And of course they would in about 40 days according to **Acts 2: 1 – 4**. But here, He wants them to know, again, that He will be the source of the sending of the Holy Spirit as He had said back in **John 15: 26**. Then Jesus says this in Verse 23. Had they received the Holy Spirit at this time, as some believe, they wouldn’t have still been in that room. They would, as Acts 1: 8 says, have been His witnesses all over the place.

**Verse 23:** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained.

This is said in the context of them being commissioned by Jesus, as Jesus was by the Father, under the power of the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel. Some believe this is giving people the authority to forgive sin but remember what **Mark 2: 7** says? Jesus is teaching and 4 drop in a paralytic and Jesus says **your sins are forgiven you**. Then the scribes say **why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?** **Daniel 9: 9** says that **God offers mercy and forgiveness**.

Because this is in the context of sharing the gospel, this is what Jesus is saying. If you share the gospel with someone and they repent and trust Christ as their Savior, their sins are forgiven, aren't they? So you can affirm that by saying 'your sins have been forgiven'. If someone hears the gospel and does not repent and believe, then scripture makes it very clear that they are still in their sins and are living in unforgiveness of sin and if they die, they will die in their sin. So you can affirm that in saying 'your sins are retained or remain because of unforgiveness; and it is all based on the authority and promises given us by the word of God and nothing else.

By the way, you never read of anyone absolving anyone else of their sins. Not Peter, not Paul, none of the apostles, no one. You read about a similar statement in **Matthew 16: 19** and **Matthew 18: 18** where it says **whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven**. In the context of those, it is talking about sins that are forgiven and sins that are retained; and both are in the context of the church.

**Verses 24 – 25:** Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him 'we have seen the Lord'. so he said to them 'unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe'.

Thomas was a twin, but scripture mentions nothing about the other one. He, in your versions may be called Didymus, which simply means twin. He wasn't with the others when Jesus showed Himself to them so when they see Thomas next, they say **we have seen the Lord.**

But Thomas doubts what they say is true and says **unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.** That is why he gets the bad rap of being doubting Thomas. But, in his defense, none of the other disciples believe when they first heard either, remember. Well, Thomas is about to see the risen Lord, look at Verses 26 – 29.

**Verses 26: - 29:** *Read*

**Eight days** later, they are again in this room with the **doors shut** and locked and **Jesus stood in the midst of them** and once again greets them with **peace to you.** By the way, the indication is He, again, came into the room through a locked door. There are no physical barriers for our Lord now.

We don't know what else transpired this time when Jesus came into this room to meet them but it appears that He came in just to show Thomas that He is alive. Because He says in **Verse 27 Thomas reach your finger here and look at My hands and reach your had here and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving but believing.**

Christ comes and meets Thomas at his point of doubt and weakness and lack of faith and He could have rebuked Him and said shame on your Thomas, but He doesn't. He meets him at his point of weakness and brings him to a greater faith in Himself. Just like He does with us, in our times of weakness and doubt, He is there to gently bring us back to Himself. His strength meets us in our times of weakness, doesn't it?

So Jesus, in Verse 27, repeats exactly what Thomas had said 8 days earlier. I want to see the nail prints in His hands and put my finger in them and I want to see His side and put my hand in there. And when Jesus comes, because He knows all things that we think and say, gives Thomas the chance to do just that.

By the way, it reminds me of what Nathanael said in **John 1: 48** when Jesus saw Nathanael coming and said an Israelite indeed in whom is no deceit. Then Nathanael says **how do you know me? Jesus answered and said to him before Philip called you when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.** Look what Thomas does in Verse 28

**Verse 28: and Thomas answered and said to Him ‘my Lord and my God.**

Thomas didn’t have to touch His hands or His side, just simply seeing Him and hearing Him and Him saying what he said 8 days ago was enough for Thomas to believe. And notice how he expresses that belief **my Lord and my God.**

Thomas acknowledges that Jesus is His **Lord** and not only that but that He is his **God.** One of the clearest passages in all of scripture attesting to the fact that Jesus is God. You notice that Jesus doesn’t say ‘don’t call Me that, that is blasphemy’. But He receives His confession and description of Himself as God, because He is.

**Verse 29: Jesus said to him ‘Thomas because you have seen Me you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**

Jesus says it is one thing to see Me and believe but the greater faith is for the one who has not seen and yet believes. And that includes everyone who has put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ after He ascended into heaven.

It is like what **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 7** says **we walk by faith and not by sight.** **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 8** says **whom having not seen you love.** That is why **Hebrews 11: 1** says **now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.** So why has John put all this in here that we have seen so far in Chapters 1 – 20? Look at Verse 30 – 31.

**Verses 30 – 31: and truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**

Look at **John 21: 25.** It says **and there are also many other things that Jesus did which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.**

But John wrote these things down. Of all that he could have written, he wrote these things down and he did it, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for one reason Verse 31 says. **That you may believe:**

**Jesus is the Christ = the Messiah, of the Old Testament**

**Jesus is the Son of God = He is God in human form**

**That you may have life in His name = that through Jesus and Him alone is eternal life. John 3: 16, Acts 4: 12**

What about you, do you believe in the Jesus of the Bible and who He is and that He alone is the way to heaven and there is no other way.?

Close and gospel



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Introduction and Review:

Verse 19:

Acts 20: 7, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16: 2, Luke 16: 19 – 31  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: 1 – 4, Luke 24: 37

Verse 20:

Luke 24: 38 – 39, 42 – 43

Verse 21:

Matthew 28: 18 – 20, Mark 16: 14 – 16  
Luke 24: 44 – 48

Verses 22 – 23:

Acts 2: 1 – 4, John 15: 26, Mark 2: 7  
Matthew 16: 19, 18: 18

Verses 24 – 27:

John 1: 48

Verses 28 – 29:

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 7, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 8, Hebrews 11: 1

Verses 30 – 31:

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Verse 20:

Luke 24: 38 – 39, 42 – 43

Verse 21:

Matthew 28: 18 – 20, Mark 16: 14 – 16  
Luke 24: 44 – 48

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Matthew 16: 19, 18: 18

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